

AP source:

Credible Threat Received



A Capitol Hill police officer walks the grounds outside of the Capitol building on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, in Washington. Counterterrorism officials said Thursday they are investigating a credible but unconfirmed terror threat involving New York or Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

Counterterrorism officials said Thursday they are investigating a credible but unconfirmed terror threat involving New York or Washington.

The threat was so specific, and coming at a time of already heightened security just days before the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that it could not be ignored, a counterterrorism official told The Associated Press. The official requested anonymity to discuss sensitive security information.

Officials would not tell the AP what specifically is being targeted in New York or Washington or the timing of a potential attack. A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the terror alert has not been raised because of the threat.

Continued on next page

Obama Unveils Jobs Plan



President Barack Obama delivers a speech to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011. Watching are Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner.

(AP Photo/Kevin Lamarque, POOL)

WASHINGTON (AP)

Barack Obama, looking to jolt both the U.S. economy and his presidency, proposed a \$447 billion plan for creating jobs in a high-profile, nationally televised speech before Congress late Thursday.

Obama, facing a tough re-election fight next year, looked to stem the eroding confidence in his leadership as the mood of Americans darkens and emboldened Republican presidential challengers assail his record.

The newest and boldest element of Obama's plan would slash the payroll tax for the Social Security pension program both for tens of millions of workers and for employers, too. It also includes \$105 billion in public works projects and the renewal of \$50 billion in unemployment benefits for



Rep. Jeff Landry, R-La., holds a sign that reads "Drilling = Jobs" during a speech by President Barack Obama to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

about 6 million Americans at risk of losing jobless insurance.

Obama did not venture an estimate as to how many jobs his plan would create. He promised repeatedly that his plan would be paid for, but never said

how, pledging to release those details soon.

"This plan is the right thing to do right now," Obama said after a divided body rose in warm unison to greet him. "You should pass it. And I intend to take that message to every corner of

this country."

His aim was to pressure Congress to act and to share the responsibility for fixing the economic mess that is sure to figure in next year's elections. For every time he told lawmakers to "pass the bill" and he said over and over Democrats cheered while Republicans sat in silence.

Obama will likely have a hard time getting much of his plan through Congress. Republicans control the House of Representatives and can use procedural tactics to block bills in the Senate.

Beyond their ideological opposition to Obama's plans, Republicans would seem hesitant to hand Obama a major legislative victory that could boost his re-election prospects.

Continued on next page

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Obama unveils plan to revive US economy

Continued from front

Even before the speech, the top Republican in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, described Obama's expected ideas as re-treads, saying: "This isn't a jobs plan. It's a re-election plan."

Obama looked to put himself above the partisanship asking "whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy."

But his speech offered some potential to boost his own political standing. By challenging Republicans on their own turf, Obama could show the voters watching at home, particularly independents, that he isn't the one to blame for inaction.

Washington's political divide has become so intense that normally routine matters now lead to partisan spats. That included the timing of Obama's speech. Obama had asked to speak on Wednesday, at the time of a Republican presidential debate. Speaker John Boehner, in an unusual move, rejected the day and proposed Thursday instead.

Republicans cast Obama as swelling the deficit with reckless spending and proposing what they call job-killing tax increases. Democrats cast Republicans as out of touch with an American public that wants to see the government do more to create jobs and favors a mix of spending cuts and tax increases to bring



President Barack Obama speaks to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

down deficits.

Obama has faced criticism from his own supporters, who say he has been too quick to yield to the demands of Republican, especially those associated with the anti-tax, small-government tea party movement. In his speech, Obama defended the role of government and, without mentioning it by name, took on the tea party.

"This larger notion that the only thing we can do to restore prosperity is just dismantle government, refund everyone's money, let everyone write their own rules, and tell everyone they're on their own - that's not who we are," he

said. "That's not the story of America."

Obama remains personally popular and a formidable campaigner. But his approval ratings keep tumbling and no incumbent president in recent history has won re-election with the unemployment rate anywhere near the current level, 9.1 percent.

About 14 million people are unemployed. There is just one job opening available for every four job seekers, on average, in the richest nation on earth.

In one striking sign of discontent, nearly 80 percent of Americans think the country is headed in the wrong direction. That's about the

same level of pessimism as when Obama took office. It reflects both persistently high unemployment and disgust with Washington infighting.

Obama took office in the midst of recession that began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009, costing America a staggering 7.5 million jobs. Even though many voters are spreading blame around, Obama owns the economy now and his political strategy of putting the onus on Congress holds risk.

If nothing comes of his jobs program and he tries to blame Congress, he will still be the most identifiable target for voter ire. □

Credible Threat Received

Continued from front

A law enforcement official in New York, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security information, described the threat as credible but declined to give details.

Information gleaned from Osama bin Laden's compound in May indicated that al-Qaida had considered attacking the U.S. on the 10th anniversary and other important dates. Security has been enhanced around the country, including in New York and Washington, in the weeks leading to Sunday's anniversary. President Barack Obama was briefed on the threat information Thursday morning and directed the counterterrorism community to redouble its efforts in response to the credible but unconfirmed information, a White House official said. "It's accurate that there is specific, credible but unconfirmed threat information," Homeland Security Department spokesman Matt Chandler said in a statement. "As we always do before important dates like the anniversary of 9/11, we will undoubtedly get more reporting in the coming days." The threat was received late Wednesday night, the counterterrorism official told the AP, and law enforcement has been investigating its validity since. The threat came in a single piece of information and intelligence officials could not determine whether it was related to previous intelligence, the official said. □

Judge won't suppress statements in NYC case

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury can hear incriminating statements made by a terror defendant after he was arrested in a failed mission by al-Qaida to attack the city's subway system with homemade bombs, a federal judge ruled Thursday. U.S. District Judge Raymond Dearie rejected a defense motion to have Adis Medunjanin's statements kept out of a trial expected to begin early next year. Defense attorney Robert Gottlieb, who had argued the statements had been coerced, said he was "disappointed, but we are preparing for trial." Medunjanin has pleaded not guilty to charges accusing him of hatching a plot with two former high school classmates from Queens, Najibullah Zazi and Zarein Ahmedzay, to pull off what prosecutors call three "coordinated sui-

cide bombing attacks" on Manhattan subway lines. After receiving al-Qaida training, Zazi, a former Denver airport shuttle driver, cooked up explosives and set out for New York City around the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He was arrested after abandoning the plan and fleeing back to Colorado. Zazi and Ahmedzay have since admitted in guilty pleas that they wanted to avenge U.S. aggression in the Arab world by becoming martyrs. Both are potential government witnesses against Medunjanin. The FBI — in reports filed to support arguments Medunjanin's statements should be allowed at trial — claimed that after he was detained in early 2010, he admitted going to Afghanistan with his friends in 2008 to join the Taliban and fight U.S. soldiers in retaliation for the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal. □

Power out for millions in US, Mexico



A San Diego police official directs traffic after a power outage Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, in San Diego. A power outage is affecting millions of people across southern California, Arizona and Mexico. San Diego Gas & Electric Co. Darcel Hulce said that crews Thursday believe the outage was caused by a system breakdown and assured people it was not the result of a terror attack. (AP Photo/Gregory

JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A power outage is affecting millions of people across southern California, Arizona and Mexico.

San Diego Gas & Electric Co. Darcel Hulce said that crews Thursday believe the outage was caused by a system breakdown and assured people it was not the result of a terror attack.

All outgoing flights from San Diego's Lindbergh Field have been halted and police stations are using generators to accept emergency calls.

The outage that started shortly before 4 p.m. PDT extends from San Clemente, California to San Diego to Yuma, Arizona. It also is affecting cities south of the border across much of the state of northern Baja.

Hulce says power may not be returned until Friday □

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Audio files reveal 9/11 air traffic horror

CHRIS HAWLEY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Newly posted audio files depict the horror of 9/11 unfolding in the sky, as air traffic controllers struggled to follow the faint tracks of hijacked planes, fighter jets tried in vain to chase them down and a flight attendant made a desperate appeal for help.

The sound files add a layer of emotion to previously published transcripts, as puzzlement and frustration seeps into the voices of controllers, military commanders, and even pilots watching the attacks from the sky. There are shouting and ringing phones in the background — the soundtrack, usually omitted from written transcripts, of a nation suddenly at war.

In one chilling excerpt, screaming and a shouted "Hey!" is heard over the radio as hijackers storm the cockpit of United Flight 93. That's followed by a strange, strained cry. Stunned controllers and other pilots discuss the sounds, trying to make sense of what they heard. "No dry words on a page can capture that; you really have to hear it," said John Farmer, dean of the Rutgers University School



A member of the Red Knights motorcycle club from Cleveland says a prayer during a visit to the temporary memorial to Flight 93 on Sept. 8, 2011 in Shanksville, Pa. Sunday will mark the tenth anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

of Law and former senior counsel to the government's 9/11 Commission.

The sound files were posted online Wednesday, just days before the 10th anniversary of the attacks, to accompany a monograph published by the Rutgers

University Law Review. The release was first reported by The New York Times.

The monograph was written by Farmer and other investigators working for the 9/11 Commission but was not completed by the time the commission released its final report in 2004.

Farmer and another investigator, Miles Kara, decided to finish the document and add the audio after their draft and the original Federal Aviation Administration recordings were declassified last year.

Law school students helped review and edit the recordings. Most of recordings come from the FAA and are of controllers and the military liaisons working with them. But some come from other sources, including a phone call that Betty Ong, a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, placed to the airline.

"Somebody's stabbed in business class, and, um I think there is Mace that we can't breathe," Ong says.

"I don't know, I think we're getting hijacked."

After Flight 11 hit the World Trade Center, tapes recorded the conversation among controllers as a second plane streaked past the window of a radar control facility on its way to Manhattan.

"Another one just hit the building," someone says.

Another person responds: "Oh my God."

And then: "Another one just hit it hard. ... Another one just hit the World Trade."

It's followed by: "The whole building just, ah, came apart."

Someone utters again: "Oh my God."

Some original recordings from 9/11 still have not been made public, including military communications, discussions among White House officials, and the cockpit voice recorder from Flight 93.

Farmer listened to the cockpit voice recording during the 9/11 Commission investigation. □

Potential Jackson case jurors dismissed

LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than half of the first panel of prospective jurors for the manslaughter trial of

Michael Jackson's doctor were dismissed because of hardship claims Thursday, signaling a long search ahead for those who will serve in the five-week trial.

And it is yet unclear how many prospects will be excused for disclosing strong opinions about Jackson, defendant Dr. Conrad Murray and the high profile case with which all potential panelists are familiar.

Authorities contend Murray gave Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol in the bedroom of the pop superstar's rented mansion in June 2009, but attorneys for the physician deny he administered anything that should have been fatal.

They will contend that Jackson swallowed an overdose of propofol when Murray wasn't watching.

When the judge asked Thursday whether anyone in the jury room was unaware of case, not a single hand was raised.

A larger than expected contingent of 187 prospects showed up for questioning Thursday. Court officials said that of those, 115 were dismissed and 72 remained to fill out lengthy questionnaires probing their views of the case in which Murray is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the pop star's death. Murray has pleaded not guilty in the case. □

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In North East, still haunted by Lee flooding

**MICHAEL HILL
M. RUBINKAM
Associated Press**

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Nearly 100,000 people from New York to Maryland were ordered to flee the rising Susquehanna River on Thursday as the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dumped more rain across the Northeast, closing major highways and soaking areas still recovering from Hurricane Irene. At Binghamton, New York, the wide river broke a flood record and flowed over retaining walls downtown as more than 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain fell in some areas. Road closures effectively sealed the city off to outside traffic as emergency responders scrambled to evacuate holdouts who didn't heed warnings to leave neighborhoods. Most of the people ordered to evacuate their homes were about 80 miles (128 kilometers) downstream in Wilkes-Barre, where the river was projected to crest later Thursday at 41 feet (12.5 meters) — the same height as the levee system,

officials said. Residents were ordered to leave by 4 p.m. In Port Deposit, Maryland, rising water levels at the Conowingo Dam forced officials to open the floodgates and order the evacuation of most of the Susquehanna River town's 1,000 residents. Evacuation orders were issued Wednesday to some 20,000 people in Binghamton and neighboring communities along the Susquehanna. More than 70,000 residents in Wilkes-Barre and Kingston were told to leave. So were people in about 170 homes about 90 miles (145 kilometers) downstream in Harrisburg, where crews put sandbags around the governor's mansion. Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Leighton said residents should prepare for an evacuation of 72 hours and advised them to take clothing, food and prescription medicine. He also asked city businesses to close their doors by noon. Water levels along much of



The Isle of Que, a neighborhood along the Susquehanna River is accessible only by boat after being evacuated Thursday Sept. 8, 2011 in Selinsgrove, Pa. Nearly 100,000 people from New York to Maryland were ordered to flee the rising Susquehanna River on Thursday as the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dumped more rain across the Northeast, closing major highways and soaking areas still recovering from Hurricane Irene.

(AP Photo/The Sentinel, Jeffrey L. Fishbein)

ward ever since. Four people died in central Pennsylvania, one was killed in Maryland and four others died earlier when Lee hit the South.

Roads and highways closed around the Northeast, including sections of New York's Interstate 88, which follows the Susquehanna's path. In Philadelphia, flooding and a rock slide closed the eastbound lanes of the Schuylkill Expressway, a major artery into the city, and it could take hours for the road to reopen.

New York's Thruway Authority expected to close a 105-mile (169-kilometer) stretch of its busiest east-west highway, Interstate 90, because the nearby Mohawk River had overflowed its banks in some areas. □

Northeast's passenger rail system seen vulnerable to terrorist attack

MICHAEL P. MAYKO

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BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — On March 11, 2004, a series of coordinated bombings of the Cercanias commuter system in Madrid, Spain, killed 191 and wounded 1,800 others. On July 11, 2006, seven bomb blasts only a few minutes apart hit the commuter rail system in Mumbai, India, killing more than 200 people. Those and other attacks abroad have not been lost on security and terrorist experts, who view America's sprawling rail transit system as one of the most vulnerable and appealing targets for global terrorists. Nowhere in the U.S. is mass transit more developed and more widely used than in the Northeast, where a thick web of Amtrak, Metro-North, Long Island Railroad and other trains and subway systems serves mil-

lions of people each day. Yet compared to the tens of billions of dollars poured into protecting airports and air passengers, precious few resources have been devoted to ensuring the nation's mass transit security, some say. "Of all things they could hit, transportation worries me the most," said Daniel J. Mabrey, executive director for the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups, working out of the University of New Haven.

John Pike, a national security analyst and founder of GlobalSecurity.org., said a coordinated attack on a major transit system would shut down the economy and the federal government. "Not hard to do — and perfectly executed they'd cause economic havoc on a massive scale," he said. "Do one Monday, two Tuesday and you know what happens Wednesday? No trains are running anywhere. It would implode public confidence." □

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Donna Eldred and Don Bourcier lay flowers at a small memorial outside the IHOP restaurant in Carson City, Nev. The attack by lone gunman Eduardo Sencion, aka Eduardo Perez Gonzalez, left four dead and seven injured. Sencion also killed himself.

(AP Photo/Cathleen Allison)

Details begin to emerge of cafe gunman’s past

SANDRA CHEREB
Associated Press
CARSON CITY, Nevada (AP) — The man who gunned down 11 people at a restaurant in Nevada’s capital city before taking his own life had a history of mental health problems, was on long-term medication and once thought of joining the military.

As Carson City copes with the tragedy, Sheriff Ken Furlong said Thursday investigators are turning their attention to 32-year-old Eduardo Sencion, trying to figure out who he was and what may have motivated him to storm the restaurant with an assault rifle. Four people were killed in Tuesday’s attack, including three uniformed Nevada National Guard members. Furlong says Sencion did not dislike the military, and at some point considered joining. But he adds the Mexican-born Sencion’s mental health likely would have disqualified him from serving in the armed forces of his adopted country.

Judge warns US union to halt illegal tactics

MIKE BAKER
Associated Press
TACOMA, Washington (AP) — A federal judge ordered union protesters to stop using illegal tactics Thursday as they battle for the right to work at a new grain terminal in Washington state. U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton issued a preliminary injunction to restrict union activity, saying there was no defense for the aggressive tactics used in recent days. Protesters twice blocked the pathway of a train carrying grain to the terminal at the Port of Longview on Wednesday, and early Thursday morning hundreds of them stormed the facility, overwhelmed guards, dumped grain and broke windows, police said. The dispute halted work at four other Washington ports, including Seattle, on Thursday as hundreds of long-shoremen refused to show up or walked off the job. Leighton said he felt like a paper tiger because the International Longshore and Warehouse Union clearly ignored a temporary restraining order he issued last week with similar limits. He said he now wants to hold a hearing to determine whether the union should be held in civil contempt. “The regard for the law is absent here,” the judge said. “Somebody is going to be hurt seriously.” Six guards were trapped for a couple of hours after at least 500 Longshoremen broke down gates about 4:30 a.m. and smashed windows in the guard shack, Longview Police Chief Jim Duscha said. He initially referred to the guards as “hostages,” but later retracted that after the guards clarified no one had threatened them.

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Firefighters look to deal blow to Texas blaze

APRIL CASTRO
C. SHERMAN
Associated Press
BASTROP, Texas (AP) —

Firefighters rushed Thursday to prepare their biggest weapon for an aerial assault of a massive wildfire that has raged for days, incinerating nearly 1,400 homes and miles (kilometers) of parched land in Central Texas.

Crews made steady progress against the massive Bastrop County fire and surrounded its biggest flames as they finalized plans to deploy a converted DC-10 jetliner Friday capable of dropping 12,000 gallons (45,420 liters) of retardant on the blaze and smoldering hotspots across some 45 square miles (116 square kilometers).

Concern lingered, however, about wind sparking flare-ups or fanning flames outside the area that had been surrounded by containment lines.

"I still think we turned a corner, a lot of progress is being made," said Bastrop County Sheriff Terry Pickering.

The DC-10 — America's biggest firefighting jet — is just one strategy the community is employing to finally get control of the blaze. It's been the most catastrophic of nearly 180 wildfires the forest service says erupted across Texas this week in an outbreak that's left nearly 1,700 homes statewide in charred ruins, killed four people and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

The massive plane arrived Wednesday in Austin, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of the blaze, but couldn't be used until Friday because authorities needed time to assemble the equipment and pre-



Robert King looks through the remains of her home that was destroyed by wildfires, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, in Bastrop, Texas. The fire has destroyed more than 1,000 homes and blackened about 45 square miles in and around Bastrop.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

pare the retardant, forest service spokeswoman Holly Huffman said.

Officials on Thursday allowed some of the 5,000 evacuated area residents to return to neighborhoods untouched by fire and no longer considered threatened, but authorities declined to specify exactly how many were being allowed to go back.

The move, however, wasn't enough to console weary evacuees still unable to check on homes in burned areas. One man shouted "when are you going to let us in?" While another pointedly asked the sheriff how his home would be protected while he was shut out, but neighbors 100 yards away were let in. □



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Libyan rebel PM calls for unity, rebuilding

BEN HUBBARD
HADEEL AL-SHALCHI
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A hunted Moammar Gadhafi called on his remaining loyalists Thursday to keep fighting, as the country's acting premier appealed from the capital for national unity to rebuild the North African nation after six months of civil war.

Rebel forces effectively ended Gadhafi's rule last month when they seized the capital Tripoli, sending the 42-year autocrat into hiding. Libya's new rulers have been searching for him while trying to negotiate the surrender of towns still held by Gadhafi supporters.

On Thursday, Gadhafi loyalists fired at least 10 rock-

ets from inside one of the towns at former rebel forces amassed outside. Former rebels have been waiting outside Bani Walid

for days while their leaders try to negotiate the town's surrender before a deadline this weekend. Speaking to reporters in



A former rebel fighter poses with a pre-Gadhafi flag reading in Arabic: "Heroes of February 17th make the revolution", at the front line in Bani Walid, Libya, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011. It is thought that Libya's former rebels have surrounded the ousted dictator Moammar Gadhafi, and it is only a matter of time until he is captured or killed, a spokesman for Tripoli's new military council said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

he said. He also criticized the town's leaders, saying they had shown "no real initiatives or intentions to give peace a chance and bring unity back to the Libya people."

Bani Walid, a dusty town of 100,000 some 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, has emerged as a focus in the fight against pro-Gadhafi holdouts. Some say prominent regime loyalists, including Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, could be inside.

Regime loyalists also still control Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte and the southern city of Sabha.

In Tripoli, Jibril said that a new government can be formed only after the whole country is "liberated."

"I hope that we as Libyans, just as we fought to free the land and its people, will be able to join hands to fight the battle to rebuild," he said.

Thursday's appearance was Jibril's first since rebel forces stormed the capital on Aug. 21. Since then,

Libya's new leaders have been scrambling to establish an interim administration to run the country's affairs until a new constitution can be written and elections can be held.

Many high-level leaders in the National Transitional Council, including its head, have yet to move to the capital. Jibril said the delay was for security reasons.

"Don't forget that many elements of the regime and pockets of the regime are still present," he said. "And it is our right as Libyans to protect the leaders of this revolution."

From hiding hours earlier, Gadhafi denied rumors he had fled Libya, vowed never to leave the land of his ancestors and exhorted followers to keep fighting. The message was broadcast on a pro-Gadhafi satellite TV channel based in Syria.

Gadhafi hasn't been seen in public for months. Finding him would help seal the new rulers' hold on the country and likely trigger the collapse of remaining loyalist resistance. □



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Tripoli Thursday, Mahmoud Jibril, the acting prime minister, called the negotiations an opportunity to avoid further bloodshed, but said his forces would respond if attacked.

"The right to self-defense will remain a right even before this issue concludes,"

AP Report:

Special unit hunting Gadhafi

RYAN LUCAS
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Determined to hunt down Moammar Gadhafi, Libya's new rulers say they have dedicated a special unit of fighters to track the elusive former leader, listening in on his aides' phone calls, poring over satellite images and interviewing witnesses.

Although leads come mostly from on-the-ground tips, help is also coming from France and other Western countries, according to a French intelligence official. Satellite-based transmission intercepts of suspicious phone calls try to pinpoint where Gadhafi might be. Small CIA teams are also assisting in the manhunt, according to former U.S. officials.

Gadhafi, who hasn't been seen in public

for months, went underground after anti-regime fighters swept into Tripoli on Aug. 21.

Capturing the ousted ruler would allow the former rebels to seal their grip on the country and shut the door on the possibility of Gadhafi's inspiring an insurgency against the new leaders.

After more than four decades under his authoritarian rule, Libyans are haunted by the question of Gadhafi's whereabouts, and the country has been awash with rumors that have put him everywhere from deep in a bunker under Tripoli to safe in exile in neighboring Niger or Algeria.

On Thursday, Gadhafi himself dismissed talk of his flight, saying in an audio broadcast that he's still in Libya, and exhorted followers to keep fighting. □



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World Briefs

Navy op nets Zeta system

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP) — The Mexican navy says it has dismantled a telecommunications system set up by the Zetas drug cartel and has arrested 80 people, including six police officers. Navy spokesman Jose Luis Vergara says forces confiscated 13 antennas the cartel set up in several cities around the Gulf coast state of Veracruz to provide communication between the gang's cells. Vergara said Thursday that forces also found amplifiers, power supplies, batteries, solar panels and wiring. The system was operated from a central base. The spokesman said the 80 detainees are suspected of extortion, drug trafficking, kidnapping and murder. The 26-day operation also netted seven vehicles carrying medical kits, clothing and groceries. □

Nigeria: Ship explosion kills 3

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Maritime authorities in Nigeria say a Liberia-flagged cargo ship exploded near Lagos, killing at least three crew members from India. Lami Tumaka, a spokeswoman for the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, said late Thursday that the explosion happened Sunday off the coast. Tumaka said that the MT Jacksonville exploded after leaking an unknown substance into the water. Tumaka said the vessel had 15 crew members. Ten have been accounted for, while authorities on Thursday discovered the bodies of three citizens of India. Tumaka said two others remain missing. Lagos' chaotic Apapa Port takes in the majority of cargo coming into Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with 150 million residents. Piracy remains rampant in the region. □

Sudan forces pull out of Abyei

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Assistant U.N. peacekeeping chief Edmond Mulet says government troops from Sudan's Arab north and the south's Sudan People's Liberation Movement will soon pull out of the contested region of Abyei. The pullout comes as Ethiopian peacekeepers begin moving in for a temporary assignment to demilitarize the region, with 1,700 of 4,200 peacekeepers now in place. Mulet told reporters after a closed Security Council meeting about Sudan on Thursday that the two sides agreed in Addis Ababa earlier Thursday to pull out of the region between Sept. 11 and 30. The council has authorized the deployment of the Ethiopian force for six months. □

AP Exclusive:

Kuwait may host US Iraq backup force



James F. Jeffrey, American ambassador to Iraq, center, is seen during the hand-over ceremony of a military base in Basra, 340 miles (550 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. The Obama administration is considering staging American troops in Kuwait next year as a backup or rotational training force for Iraq, after the Pentagon completes the scheduled withdrawal of its current 45,000-strong force from Iraq in December, U.S. officials said.

(AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

**REBECCA SANTANA
 ROBERT BURNS
 Associated Press
 IRAQ/WASHINGTON (AP)**

— The Obama administration is considering staging American troops in Kuwait next year as a backup or rotational training force for Iraq, after the Pentagon completes the scheduled withdrawal of its current 45,000-strong force from Iraq in December, U.S. officials said.

The proposal, not yet announced, is among a number of options the administration is considering for extending its military training role in still-violent Iraq, whose divided government has been reluctant to ask Washington directly to keep troops on its soil beyond this year.

All troops are to leave Iraq by Dec. 31 under a 2008 security agreement, but senior U.S. officials worry that without more training the Iraqi forces may squander hard-won security gains. The Iraqi army, for exam-

ple, is only now taking delivery of U.S. battle tanks, on which they have yet to be trained.

Iraq's security forces are improving but still lack the capability to defend fully Iraqi air space, borders and territorial waters, U.S. military officers say. "There are some gaps in their military capabilities, their security capabilities, that we believe we could offer some assistance with," Navy Capt. John Kirby, a spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday. □



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EU official warns of spreading al-Qaida offshoot

AOMAR OUALI
PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — The European Union's counterterrorism coordinator warned Thursday that al-Qaida's North African offshoot is extending its footprint around Africa and said local governments need more help fighting it. Dealing with al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, which stages regular deadly attacks in Algeria and has kidnapped more than a dozen foreigners around the vast Sahel region, was central to a two-day conference in Algeria's capital this week on security challenges. Officials from Saharan countries pledged to continue working together in the fight against terrorism. But Niger's foreign minister told a local newspaper that cooperation so far has been ineffective.

EU counterterrorism coordinator Gilles de Kerchove offered European assistance, according to Algeria's state news agency APS. He was quoted by APS as saying Algeria was in good shape to fight AQIM, because "it has a powerful army. However the other countries of the region, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, need help." He warned that AQIM is working with terrorist groups elsewhere in Africa. "This is something that the intelligence services are following very closely. There is

still nothing structural. There are efforts at contacts, and small transfers of money," he was quoted as saying. "It seems that some members of Boko Haram (in Nigeria) and al-Shabaab (in Soma-

geria, Niger, Mali and Mauritania — founded in 2010. Bazoum added that he now hoped to see a much more vigorous joint military presence patrolling in the 3 million square miles (8 mil-

their strategy included measures to fight poverty and develop the remote and cash-strapped regions where al-Qaida militants and smugglers reigned supreme. A French intelligence official in Paris dismissed the conference as "diplomatic posturing," saying that the four are not cooperating in the fight against al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb nearly as well as they could. He spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

AQIM grew out of the armed groups fighting the Algerian government in the 1990s after elections were canceled by the military in 1991 to stave off a victory for an Islamist political party. The group declared allegiance to al-Qaida in 2006 and changed its name, embarking on a renewed campaign of bombings and kidnappings across the Sahara. Shari Villarosa, the head of the U.S. delegation to the conference and a member of the State Department's anti-terrorism team, estimated AQIM was comprised of less than 1,000 members. On Sept. 1, AQIM announced it had killed 29 members of Algeria's security forces between July and August, including 18 killed in twin suicide bombings of the Algerian military academy at Cherchell on Aug. 26. □



Algerian deputy foreign minister in charge of Africa Abdelkader Messah delivers his speech during the opening of the conference on anti-terrorism in the Sahel desert region, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011 in Algiers. The foreign ministers of Algeria and other North African nations met Wednesday to discuss how to confront terrorism in the vast desolate regions of the Sahara Desert. The two-day conference, originally expected to focus just on al-Qaida, has now also become inextricably tied up with the civil war in neighboring Libya.

(AP Photo/Anis Belghoul)

lia) were trained by AQIM." Niger's foreign minister, Mohamed Bazoum, noted that to date a four-country joint military body based in the Algerian town of Tamanrasset has been ineffective. "So far, we have not seen it execute a single concrete operation. We would like CEMOC to carry out concrete actions," he told the independent daily newspaper Liberte, referring to the Committee of Joint Chiefs of the four countries — Al-

lion square kilometers) of desert shared by the four countries. "The Algiers conference lets the countries of the region show their partners abroad that they possess a true strategy and unified vision for their struggle against terrorism, organized crime and poverty," Algeria's minister for North African affairs, Abdelkader Messahel, said at the event's conclusion. Officials from the four countries were quick to say that

Macedonians celebrate their independence

K. TESTORIDES
Associated Press
SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)

— About 200,000 people gathered in Macedonia's capital Skopje on Thursday evening to attend celebrations for the Balkan country's 20th anniversary of independence.

The small, landlocked nation of 2 million was the only former Yugoslav republic to secede without bloodshed in 1991.

But violence broke out a decade later, as government forces put down an armed uprising by ethnic Albanians seeking greater rights for the minority that makes up about a quarter of the population.

Today, analysts say Macedonia is still seeking to avoid sliding back into conflict. Macedonia has been locked in a bitter dispute over its name with Greece, which says the term "Macedonia" implies territorial claims on its own province of the same name.

Ties with its other neighbors, Bulgaria and Serbia, have also been testy, while the government has kept a wary eye on neighboring Kosovo, Europe's newest country, which was recognized as an independent state in 2008 and whose population is overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian. □

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PR man guilty of burning family

DANICA COTO
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A Puerto Rico man was convicted Thursday of killing six people, including a Seattle couple, by dousing them in gasoline and setting them on fire during a family dinner on New Year's Day.

A judge also found Justino Sanchez Diaz guilty of trying to kill seven more people during the torch attack in the northern mountain town of Florida.

He is to be sentenced Monday, local Justice Department spokesman Fidel Rodriguez said.

Among those killed were Sanchez's mother and his nephew Jesus Sanchez as well as Jesus Sanchez's fiancée, Kate Donahue of Seattle, who was visiting Puerto Rico to meet her husband-to-be's family following their engagement.

"Accountability has been served, but justice never," Donahue's mother, Michelle Donahue, said by telephone, adding that she had been following the trial every day.

She said the entire family was still going to counseling and already had sessions scheduled for Thursday before the judge issued a verdict. □

US accuses 4 Venezuelans of aiding Colombia rebels

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The U.S. government on Thursday accused a powerful Venezuelan general, an intelligence official and two political allies of President Hugo Chavez of providing arms, security and training to Colombia's main rebel group. It barred Americans from doing business with them.

The U.S. Treasury Department said the four had closely collaborated with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, supporting the rebel group's "narcotics and arms trafficking activities." It did not specify a time period for that alleged assistance.

The four include congressman Freddy Bernal, Gen. Cliver Alcala Cordones, who heads the army's Fourth Armored Division,



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez grabs his nose while telling a joke at the Miraflores presidential. The U.S. government on Thursday accused a powerful Venezuelan general, an intelligence official and two political allies of President Hugo Chavez of providing arms, security and training to Colombia's main rebel group.

intelligence official Ramon Isidro Madriz Moreno and Amilcar Figueroa, who has represented Venezuela in the Latin American Parliament.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro called

toward our country in the future."

Chavez's relations with the Colombian rebel group, including allowing it refuge in Venezuela, were a major sore point in relations with the Colombian government of President Alvaro Uribe, who left office last year.

Chavez's ties to the FARC, beginning about 2006, are documented in electronic files found in the computers of Raul Reyes, a top FARC commander slain in 2008, that refer to Alcala and Figueroa. The files were shown to The Associated Press by a senior Colombian official.

In a January 2007 message to FARC's leadership, Venezuela-based FARC commander Ivan Marquez said Alcala would be delivering "20 bazookas" to him and another rebel leader. □

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

the U.S. announcement "part of the agenda of permanent aggression against Venezuela, always in the spirit of trying to build a sort of dossier that guarantees higher levels of aggression

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Civilian planes pressed into spy service

CHRISTOPHER DREW
© 2011 New York Times

For four years, a doctor commuted between his clinics in Texas in a \$5 million turboprop with jazzy metallic stripes and ruby stones embedded on the drink cabinet inside. The plane featured exotic wood veneers and polished chrome, and his daughter's initials were in the tail number. But after a mysterious buyer snapped up the plane in 2008, it ripped out the fancy appointments, painted it a dull gray and sent it on a more dangerous mission. Unknown to the doctor, his prized King Air 350 had become a spy plane, one of the first of a new military model that is now easing the load on the U.S. unmanned drones in Iraq and Afghanistan. For a military that loves to create shiny hardware from scratch, dipping into the used-plane market is a rarity, done only under the most urgent conditions. Remotely piloted drones have been the intelligence stars of the wars, but the Pen-

tagon cannot build them quickly enough to meet the demand. So the Air Force bought eight used King

has also retooled similar planes to track insurgents who plant bombs. In turning to the King Airs,

a niche in working more closely than the unmanned drones with soldiers on hazardous missions.

delays. In addition to the used planes, the Air Force has fielded 29 new King Airs with the surveillance gear, and the Army would like to buy 36. For me, this is a precursor of what we're trying to do across the board," said David M. Van Buren, a top Air Force acquisition official, although that could be easier said than done with more complex weapons. Van Buren said the Air Force turned to the used planes after Robert M. Gates, then the defense secretary, ordered it to rush more spy planes into the air. Each of the used planes – some owned by law firms and companies – were outfitted differently. An Air Force contractor, L-3 Communications, found the eight used planes with the least wear and tear. It then ripped out the plush interiors. Bubinga wood veneers gave way to computer stations for the surveillance specialists and miles of wiring for three communications networks at different secrecy levels. A camera ball was hung from the belly, and 16 antennas were added. Meanwhile, the Air Force gave a no-bid contract to Hawker Beechcraft to build 29 extended-range planes at \$7.5 million apiece, the average discounted price for commercial customers. An L-3 plant in Texas then worked around the clock to install the spy gear, which cost \$13 million a plane. □



An Air Force MC-12 Liberty, a converted civilian King Air, returns from its first combat sortie at Joint Base Balad, north of Baghdad in Iraq, in an undated handout photo. The military has been snapping up used luxury aircraft to fulfill its need for more surveillance planes.
(The New York Times)

Airs and equipped them with video cameras and eavesdropping gear as part of a broader effort to supplement the drones with manned aircraft. The Army

the Pentagon has appropriated an aircraft that is more commonly associated with business executives flying to meetings and wealthy vacationers to weekend ski outings. King Airs have also drawn celebrity pilots such as the late actor and comedian Danny Kaye. The military has used older King Airs to carry VIP's and conduct other operations in the past. Now, military commanders say the twin-propeller planes, which carry two pilots and two sensor operators, have carved out

The crews on the planes, now called MC-12s, are in nearly constant radio contact with convoys and troops in firefights. They can chat more easily with them than the drone crews, which are based in the United States, to position the spy gear and interpret data about enemy movements. With budget cuts looming, Air Force officials say the rapid fielding of the MC-12s also shows how the military could make greater use of commercial products to reduce costs and contracting

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World-Class Lineup Announced

Countdown for the 5th Annual Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival



ORANJESTAD – On Wednesday afternoon, the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival organizers kicked off the countdown to the 5th annual event which will take place on October 7 and 8 with a pre-heating warm-up preceding the festival. Held at Cas di Cultura, as is customary, the event has grown to full adulthood through the years. This means that world-class performers can be attracted to the event and thus the 2011 edition will be filled with the names of enormously talented artists. Names like Angie Stone, Eddie Palmieri, Candy Dulfer, Richard Bona and Raul Midon will be the festival's headliners without contest, but Cosy Cotton with singer Grana Louise is sure to attract a wide audience as well. Cosy Cotton is performing on Aruba for the fourth year now and, we can tell you, it makes the hearts of local and visiting blues fans beat faster!

But the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival would

not be complete without the considerable talent of local bands, like the Muziekschool Band and many more. All will get a spot in the spotlight on one of the stages at the Plaza di Cultura and will surely impress. This October weekend will also include art of all kinds: paintings, installations, drawings, poetry, theater and mime. To make the festival complete, there will be a terrific food court. As the organizers, The Purple Entertainment Group, are dotting the i's and crossing the t's to get everything shipshape and ready for two days of an explosion of excellent music, the excitement is building within Aruba's jazz and music fans. They are greatly looking forward to the Caribbean Jazz Festival 2011. It promises to be super fantastic once again. The concept of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival was inspired by the world-class North Sea Jazz Festival created by Paul Ackett, taking place in the Nether-



lands in the summer. The annual Aruba Jazz & Latin Music festival which took place from 1986 till 2001 can be viewed as a predecessor of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival.

Famous featured performers such as Michel Camilo, Marcus Miller, Isaac Delgado, David Sanborn, Anacaona, Izaline Calister, Praful, Randal Corsen, Ronchi Matthew, Yuri Honing, Will Bernard, The Ploctones, Moon Baker, Red Fulka, Lao Tizer, Swing Design, Paoli Mejias, Cubop City Big Band and Cosy Cotton Bluse Band made the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival a truly international event of the highest caliber. Local Aruban artists and groups performing at the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival were Delbert Bernabela, Robert Jeandor, Johnny Scharbaai, Ivan Jansen, Ricardo Garcia, Antonio Bello, young Serghio Jansen, JEMM, Sonic Lab, Soul Cowboy, Gloria Vega, Sazon Cubano, Datapanic, Timbache and Mystical Connection.

The four editions of the fes-



tival have been wonderful opportunities for artists to showcase their talent, enjoy the performances of their peers, and a treat for audiences to relax on the lawn, chill in the auditorium and sip and nibble in the open-air Lounge while lis-

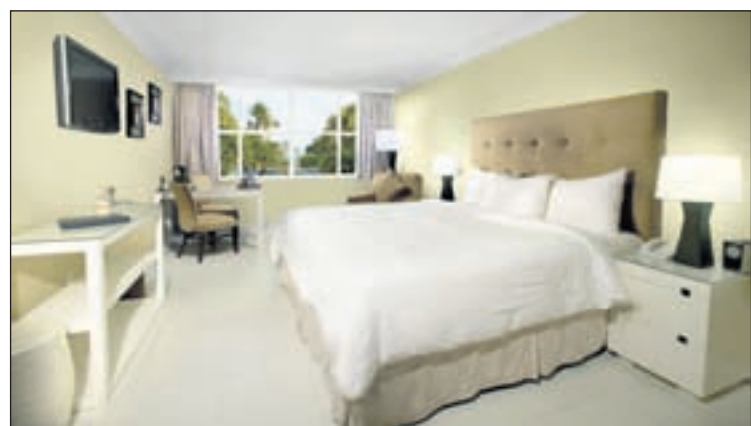
tening to some of the best improvisations on earth.

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For more information of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, please visit: <http://www.caribbeanseajazz.com>. □

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The 98 Superior, Deluxe rooms and suites are luxurious and richly appointed, with a modern design, complimentary turn-down service, one king size or two double beds, Ipod docks, flat screen televisions, upscale bathroom amenities and twice daily fresh towels. The Brickell Bay Beach Club & Spa Hotel offers the finest accommodations and amenities available in Aruba for an affordable rate.

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chairs and shadow huts for your convenience. This same shuttle can carry you to the casino or malls in the neighborhood.

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PALM BEACH -- Peggy Kiefer, staying at the Westin Aruba Resort, decided to leisurely stroll one resort over to visit the Riu Palace Aruba, including Cool Casino. The U Spin 2 Win slot machine beckoned her and she answered the call of the wild, landing an amazing jackpot of \$6,066.76, at 2pm in the afternoon. Gaming cut into my beach time, she said, but I now can afford to go shopping as much as I want.

Marian Erasmus, from the Marketing Department of Cool Casino took the picture of the lucky winner with her bundle of cash. □



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Ms. Maura Brown presents

Labor Law proposals to the members of Indian Association of Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Recently Indian Association of Aruba had a general meeting of its members during lunch at Tandoor Restaurant in Palm

Beach.

After the business of the general meeting, the Association had invited Ms. Maura Brown and Ms.

America Barrios of Brown Law firm to present the recent proposals in Labor Laws which included Labor Ordinance, Changes to the Civil Code, Minimum Wages Ordinance & Temp Agency Agreement Ordinance. These proposals of the law are initiated by Minister of Labor Mr. Otmar Oduber to achieve social equity and these have been discussed at the Tripartite forum with ATIA, AHATA and Employees Unions and now presented as a draft law.

These proposals were brought out in a simple language to the members of the Indian Association of Aruba so that they can understand the impact of these laws on their costs of businesses in immediate future. The presentation was very interesting and it was followed by a question and answer session from the members.

The board of the Association took note of the various provisions in the laws that will impact their businesses and will study them further.

Ms. Maura and America were presented a token of appreciation for their excellent presentation to the Association.

Indian Association of Aruba has over 30 members in varied businesses like Clothing, General Merchandise, Restaurant, Souvenir, Decoration, Electronics, Insurance and Jewelry. Many of these businesses are also members of ATIA and AHATA. The accompanying pictures show the presentation session after the general assembly of the IAA. □



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Navy intercepts 1300 kg of cocaine

ORANJESTAD - Under command of the Royal Netherlands Navy on Curaçao, 1300 kg of cocaine was seized on Saturday September 3rd. The drugs-seizure took place in international waters in the western part of the Caribbean Sea on board of a Colombian fishing vessel.

Under direction of the drugs enforcement organization Task Group 4.4, which is lead by a Dutch General, a USCG Cutter performed the boarding. A special boarding team searched the fishing vessel and was able to localize the drugs quickly: the 52 bales were not hidden, but were stashed below decks and even some on the deck. The first samples tested positive on cocaine. Firearms were also found on board. 4 crewmembers were taken into custody and the drugs was confiscated. The Royal Netherlands Navy plays a vital role maintaining regional security and stability in the Caribbean region. Due to the geographical location of the islands that are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a large portion of her work



lays in combating the international drugs trade. For this the navy in the Caribbean is fully integrated in the Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West. The Commander of the Netherlands Navy in the Caribbean, brigadier general Dick Swijgman, is also the head of one of the task groups of this organization: Task Group 4.4. Under this task group there is a large variety of international navy ships, helicopters and aircraft that are being deployed to counter drugs transports, weapon smuggling, human traffic and human trade. The Dutch navy ship HNLMS Johan de Witt and her Lynx helicopter are also part of this. □

Nadal routs Muller in straight sets at U.S. Open

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during his match against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

Associated Press
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Lewis eyes hometown success at LPGA event



In this Aug. 21, 2011, file photo, Yani Tseng, of Taiwan, tees off on the third hole during the final round of the LPGA Safeway Classic golf tournament, in North Plains, Ore.

Associated Press

KURT VOIGT

AP Sports Writer

ROGERS, Arkansas (AP) —

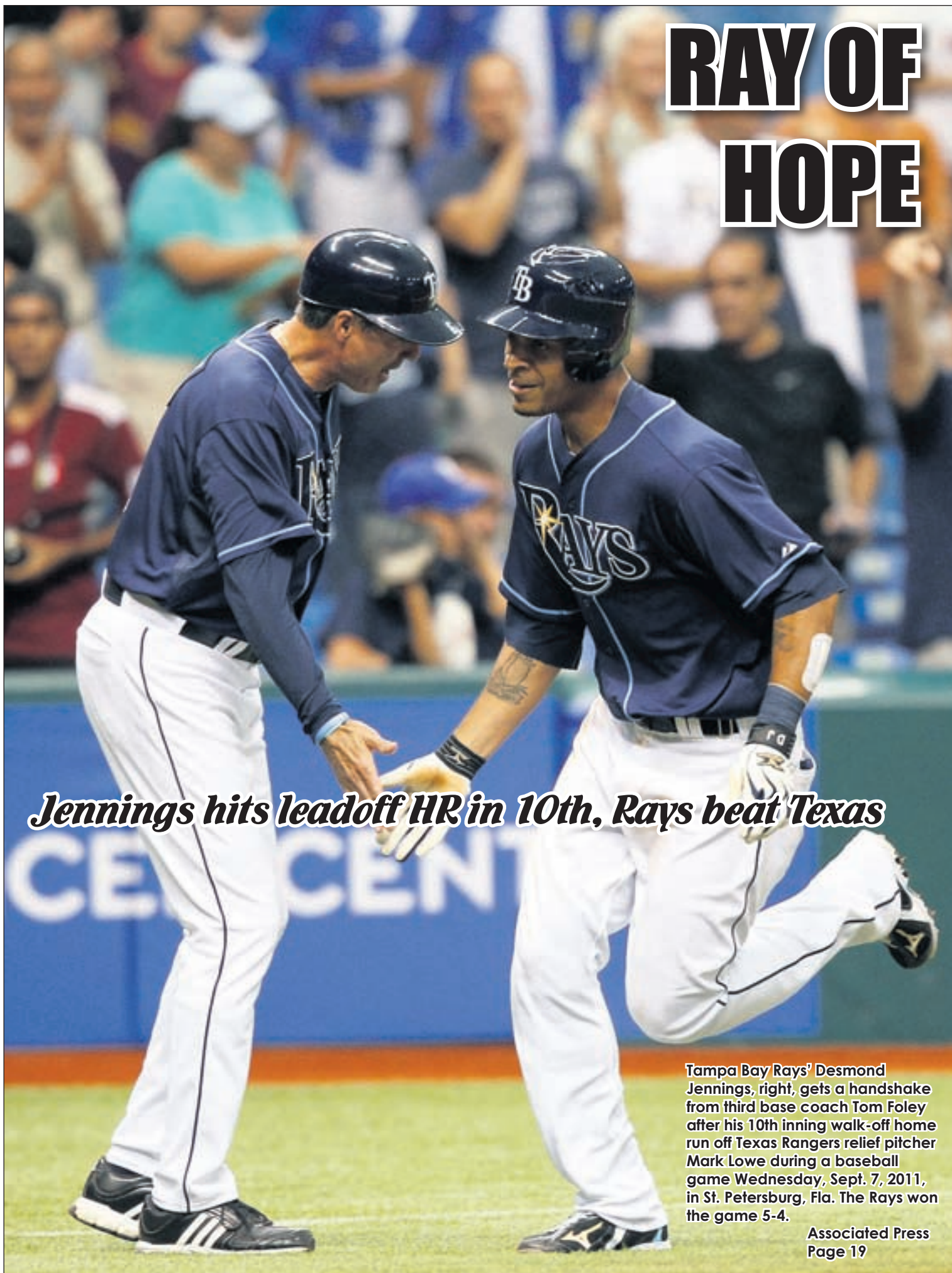
Even during a season in which she's won her first major championship and has posted eight top-10 finishes, Stacey Lewis isn't content.

Lewis will have the chance to add to her growing resume when the LPGA's P&G NW Arkansas Championship tees off Friday. In order to do so, however, she'll have to beat a talented field that includes 13 of the top 15 players in the Rolex rankings.

The event at Pinnacle Country Club is a homecoming of sorts for Lewis, who was a four-time All-American 20 minutes away at Arkansas. She knows the course well, having unofficially won the rain-shortened event in 2007 as an amateur.

Continued on next Page

RAY OF HOPE



Jennings hits leadoff HR in 10th, Rays beat Texas

Tampa Bay Rays' Desmond Jennings, right, gets a handshake from third base coach Tom Foley after his 10th inning walk-off home run off Texas Rangers relief pitcher Mark Lowe during a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays won the game 5-4.

Associated Press
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Phillies edge Braves 3-2, build NL East lead

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia's Ross Gload hit an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth to lift the Phillies to a 3-2 win over Atlanta on Wednesday, increasing their lead over the Braves in the National League East division to 10-1/2 games.

The major league-leading Phillies closed in on their fifth straight division title. They are 43 games above .500 for the first time in franchise history. However the win may come at a cost, as five-time All-Star Chase Utley left the game for precautionary reasons for a possible concussion, two innings after he was hit in the helmet by a pitch. In the bottom of the ninth, Raul Ibanez drew a one-out walk off Peter Moylan (1-1). Carlos Ruiz followed with a single then Gload ripped a hard ground ball down the right-



Philadelphia Phillies player mob pinch hitter Ross Gload (7) after he hit a game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning of a baseball game to defeat the Atlanta Braves in Philadelphia, PA, on Sept. 7, 2011.

Associated Press

field line to score Ibanez. Philadelphia's Ryan Madison (4-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win.

*Cardinals 2, Brewers 0

In St. Louis, Chris Carpenter pitched his first shutout in two years to guide St. Louis past Milwaukee.

Rafael Furcal hit a solo hom-

er for the Cardinals, who moved within 8-1/2 games of the first-place Brewers in the NL Central with 19 games to play.

The Cardinals are 6-1/2 games behind Atlanta in the wild card race, with the Braves coming to St. Louis on Friday for a three-game

series.

The benches and bullpens emptied in the top of the ninth after Carpenter (9-9) struck out Nyjer Morgan. The two had words and Morgan headed toward the mound before being restrained by teammate Prince Fielder.

No punches were thrown and Morgan was ejected.

***Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3**
In Denver, Arizona extended its lead in the NL West race to seven games by beating Colorado.

Diamondbacks starter Joe

Saunders (10-2) tossed six solid innings, giving up three runs and only one walk.

Justin Upton and Miguel Montero homered, while Jon McDonald and Gerardo Parra had two hits each for Arizona.

Rockies starter Kevin Millwood (2-2) gave up 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings to take the loss, but did hit a homer.

*Padres 3, Giants 1

In San Diego, Aaron Harang threw seven strong innings as San Diego dealt another blow to San Francisco's fading playoff hopes. □

Lewis eyes hometown

Continued from Page 17



Stacy Lewis, from the United States, salutes the crowd on the 18th green after finishing her championship round at the Canadian Women's Open golf tournament at the Hillsdale Golf Club in Mirabel, Quebec, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011.

Associated Press

Since then, Lewis has quickly risen through the LPGA ranks and is currently third on the money list with more than \$1.1 million in earnings in her third full season on tour. She's been a model of consistency this season, winning her first major at the Kraft Nabisco Championship in April while refusing to rest.

"I didn't want to be kind of the one-time winner and then the rest of the season I don't do anything," Lewis said. "I wanted to kind of prove that the Kraft wasn't a fluke and that I could play out here and have just kind of been riding the momentum." Lewis finished tied for second at last month's Canadian Women's Open, but she left little doubt where a win near her collegiate home this week would rank on her

list of accomplishments. "For me, this golf tournament is another major," Lewis said. "I mean, it would be up there with the Kraft to win it." Lewis finished tied for ninth at the event last season, and she faces no easy task once again this year. Yani Tseng ascended to the top of the rankings with a dramatic comeback win at the NW Arkansas Championship last year, making four birdies during a five-hole stretch to overcome Michelle Wie by one stroke.

Tseng's stellar play has continued since last year's win. The 22-year-old became the youngest player, male or female, to win five major titles when she won the British Open last month, and she's held the top spot in the rankings for 29 consecutive weeks. □



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Rays edge Rangers over 10 innings

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)

— Tampa Bay's Desmond Jennings homered on the first pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Rays a 5-4 win over the Texas Rangers in the American League on Wednesday.

Jennings won the game with his ninth homer of the season off Mark Lowe (2-3), cutting Texas' lead in the AL West division standings to 2-1/2 games ahead of Los Angeles. Texas had tied it at 4-4 in the ninth when Ian Kinsler hit his second homer of the game. He has seven homers in his past seven games.

The win was the 1,000th overall for the Tampa Bay franchise.

The Rays have lost 1,245. Tampa Bay reliever Jake McGee (2-1) pitched a scoreless 10th for the victory, while Ben Zobrist hit a two-run double in the first

to join Milwaukee's Ryan Braun as the only big leaguers to have 100 doubles, 50 stolen bases and 50 homers

back win over Boston. Toronto trailed 8-6 heading into the eighth against Daniel Bard (2-6). The Blue Jays



Tampa Bay's Desmond Jennings homered on the first pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Rays a 5-4 win over the Texas Rangers in the American League on Wednesday.

over the past three seasons.

Blue Jays 11, Red Sox 10

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning to complete Toronto's come-

back win over Boston. Toronto trailed 8-6 heading into the eighth against Daniel Bard (2-6). The Blue Jays

double to Encarnacion, who went 2 for 4 with a sacrifice fly and matched his career-high with five RBIs.

Toronto's Shawn Camp (4-3) pitched one inning for the win and Frank Francisco survived a two-run ninth to record his 13th save. The turnaround in the game prevented Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield notching his 200th career win. He has not won since July.

Tigers 8, Indians 6

In Cleveland, Justin Verlander won his 10th straight start and earned his 22nd victory of the season as Detroit downed Cleveland.

Verlander (22-5) gave up two two-run homers and trailed 4-2 before Detroit rallied against Justin Masterson (11-9) and the Indians' bullpen.

The comeback was completed when Victor Martinez hit a grand slam in

Detroit's five-run seventh inning. Verlander leads the majors in wins and is 20-2 since May 1. He gave up four runs and three hits in six innings, striking out eight.

Tigers closer Jose Valverde pitched a perfect ninth for his 42nd save, tying the team record set by Todd Jones in 2000. Valverde has not blown a save this year. Detroit dropped Cleveland 9-1/2 games back in the AL Central.

Orioles 5, Yankees 4, 11 innings

In New York, Mark Reynolds turned around a dismal personal night of four strikeouts by hitting the winning single in the 11th inning, lifting Baltimore over New York.

Less than 11 hours after the finish of Tuesday's game, the teams were back at it, with Baltimore's Nolan Reimold hitting a two-run homer off A.J. Burnett.

Reynolds' two-out RBI single came off Hector Noesi (2-1). □



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Brazil's Rafael Hettsheimer clings to the ring after scoring against Puerto Rico's Angel Alamo, left, and Javier Mojica during a FIBA Americas Championship basketball game in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Thursday Sept. 8, 2011. The top two finishers of the tournament get an automatic berth in the 2012 London Olympics and the next three advance to the last-chance Olympic qualifier to be held in July 2012.

(AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

Semis set for Oly qualifying for Americas

VICENTE L. PANETTA

Associated Press

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (AP) — Brazil and Argentina won their final second-round matches at the Olympic basketball qualifying tournament for the Americas on Thursday, setting the matchups for Saturday's semifinals.

Brazil defeated Puerto Rico 94-72 and Argentina downed the Dominican Republic 84-58.

In Saturday's semifinals, Brazil faces the Dominican Republic and Argentina is up against Puerto Rico. The winners move to Sunday's finals.

The two finalists qualify automatically for the 2012 London Olympics. The third- through fifth-place teams earn spots in a qualifying tournament just before the games, which will award several more berths for London.

Venezuela defeated Uruguay 92-80 on Thursday to clinch fifth place. In the day's other match, Panama edged Canada 91-89.

The United States won the world championship last year and has already qualified for London.

Marcus Vinicius scored 18 points for Brazil and Tiago Splitter added 17.

Brazil and Argentina finished with 13 points in the qualifying standings, followed by Puerto Rico with 12 and the Dominican Republic with 11.

Luis Scola of the Houston Rockets had 25 points and Manu Ginobili of the San Antonio Spurs added 17 in Argentina's victory. □

'Monday Night Football' to stay on ESPN through 2021

RICK FREEMAN

AP Sports Writer

ESPN is betting nearly \$2 billion a year that fans are ready for even more football on even more platforms.

The network agreed with the league on an eight-year contract extension that keeps "Monday Night Football" on ESPN through the 2021 season, brings the games to some tablets and boosts the amount of programming shown on the already football-saturated family of networks.

The deal is worth \$1.9 billion a year for a total of \$15.2 billion over the length of the contract, two people with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because no money figures were officially announced.

ESPN's current deal is worth \$1.1 billion a year to the NFL. The contract announced Thursday also includes expanded international rights and 3-D distribution rights. ESPN's expanded coverage for this season got started Thursday afternoon, when its daily — even in the offseason — "NFL Live" show doubled in length to an hour-long format.

"Five hundred new hours of programming, right now, starting today," ESPN/ABC

Sports president George Bodenheimer said during a conference call. "From our point of view, this is a great deal for the company. It really fuels our company 24-7."

Viewers with tablets whose cable companies have deals with ESPN will be able to watch "Monday Night

Football" on their devices. "Monday night, fans can watch the game on their iPad for the very first time," Bodenheimer said. The NFL draws huge numbers for ESPN — and all of its network partners. According to the network, visits to the ESPN website spike on Sundays and Mondays. The network also says it gets heavy web traffic from tablets and phones and through apps that let fans monitor scores during football season.



Green Bay Packers' Sam Shields (37) breaks up a pass intended for New Orleans Saints' Devery Henderson during the first half of the NFL's opening night game Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, in Green Bay, Wis. ESPN is betting nearly \$2 billion a year that fans are ready for even more football on even more platforms. The network agreed with the league on an eight-year contract extension that keeps "Monday Night Football" on ESPN through the 2021 season, brings the games to some tablets and boosts the amount of programming shown on the already football-saturated family of networks.

(AP Photo/Mike Roemer)

Football" on their devices. "Monday night, fans can watch the game on their iPad for the very first time," Bodenheimer said. The NFL draws huge num-

Some fans will be able to watch studio shows on their phones. The NFL already has an agreement to stream games only to Verizon phones. □

Asian football's middle class challenging leaders

JOHN DUERDEN

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The weakest of Asia's nations may still be a long way from challenging established powers like Japan and South Korea, but countries traditionally consigned to the continent's lower-middle order are suddenly finding themselves upwardly mobile. After two of six matches in the third round of Asian qualification for the 2014 World Cup, most of the impressive performers so far have come as something of a surprise. To see Australia, Japan and South Korea leading each of their respective groups was expected, but to see

Jordan leading Group A was not.

Jordan has six points already, and along with Australia, is the only team to have a perfect record from the opening two games. The points collected so far is just one short of the total tally that Jordan earned in its six games at the same stage in qualification for the 2010 World Cup. Thailand, Lebanon and Kuwait have all matched or surpassed their efforts of four years ago. The top two teams from each of the five groups of four progresses to the final stage.

Led by Iraqi coach Adnan Hamad, one of only five Asian coaches out of 20 in

this stage, Jordan has been the most impressive team in qualification so far. It is building on the success it had at the 2011 Asian Cup when it finished the group stage with the name number of points as eventual champion Japan before being defeated 1-0 in the quarterfinal by Uzbekistan. A 2-0 win at the 2007 Asian champion Iraq was followed by a hard-fought 2-1 victory at China on Tuesday. "We had a very tough match," Jordan coach Adnan Hamad told The Associated Press. "The Chinese played well in the first half, but we managed to regroup and play as we planned. □

U.S. Open men's final to Monday for 4th year in row

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Even in Thursday's perfect weather, Andy Roddick ran into trouble completing a rain-delayed victory at the U.S. Open — this time, because of water seeping through a crack behind a baseline in the tournament's second-largest stadium. At least he finally got to finish a 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over fifth-seeded David Ferrer, which Roddick celebrated by high-fiving spectators at cramped Court 13. Two days of wet weather gave way to sunshine, and defending champion Rafael Nadal and 2008 runner-up Andy Murray managed to work their way into the quarterfinals, too, by wrapping up straight-set victories. Still, because of rain earlier in the week, the tournament decided Thurs-



Andy Roddick of USA points to a wet spot on the court to an official as opponent David Ferrer of Spain, far left, looks on prior to their match on Louis Armstrong Stadium in the fourth round at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

Associated Press

Colts QB Manning out after another neck surgery

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Peyton Manning underwent more neck surgery Thursday, the third time in 19 months, and will miss not only the opening game but possibly the entire season. Losing Manning for any stretch of time is a huge blow to the Colts and throws the race for the AFC South wide open. The four-time NFL MVP hasn't missed a game in 14 NFL seasons, with 227 consecutive starts, including postseason. "Rehabilitation from such surgery is typically an involved process," the team said in a statement, calling the procedure "uneventful." "Therefore, there will be no estimation of a return date at this time. We will keep Peyton on the active roster until we have a clear picture of his recovery process." The Colts' statement came just hours after team owner Jim Irsay wrote on Twitter that the 35-year-old Manning would be out "awhile" and coach Jim Caldwell promised to provide more clarity. The Colts could have put Manning on injured reserve to open up a roster spot, but that would have meant he would not



In this Aug. 26, 2011, file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning looks on from the sideline during the third quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the Green Bay Packers in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

play at all in a season that will end in February with the Super Bowl played at Lucas Oil Stadium in downtown Indianapolis. Team officials said Manning had an anterior fusion procedure to treat the nerve problem that was continuing to give him trouble months after his May 23 surgery. The Colts didn't provide details, but such a procedure usually involves making an incision in the front of the neck, removing soft disk tissue between the vertebrae and fusing the bones together with a graft. The goal is to ease pain

or address a disk problem. Recovery from the procedure typically takes at least eight to 10 weeks, said Dr. Victor Khabie, co-chief of the Orthopedics and Spine Institute at Northern Westchester Hospital in New York. He has not treated Manning, but is familiar with the procedure and how athletes recover from it. "It could be season-ending, seeing the piggybacking off of another surgery," Khabie said. "But the athletes I've known over the years, I never count out because they are such great competitors and such great healers." If Manning recovered in 10 weeks, he would be back around the Nov. 13 game against Jacksonville, the week before the Colts have a bye. Manning, who signed a five-year, \$90 million contract in July, also had neck surgery in February 2010. The team said Manning will begin his latest rehab stint immediately. For Manning, one of the league's true ironmen, it was a continuation of the most frustrating offseason of his career. He already has dealt with a 4½-month lockout that prevented him from working out with team trainers after his surgery to repair a nerve. □

day afternoon to revamp its schedule and push the men's final to Monday at 2000 GMT — 24 hours later than originally planned. The women's final was shifted from Saturday night to Sunday at 4 p.m. It'll be the fourth consecutive year that the U.S. Open ends on Monday. Before the change was made, one of the men's finalists faced the prospect of playing four best-of-five-set matches in

four days, back-to-back-to-back-to-back, something Nadal called "not fair." Now the men will get Sunday off. The start-and-stop, fourth-round match between 2003 U.S. Open champion Roddick and Ferrer was supposed to begin Tuesday, when showers washed away all play. They got on court Wednesday, but only for about 15 minutes, enough to play four games. □

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STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 15 - CONTAGION • STRAW DOGS

9/11 health crisis lingers

Sonja Isger

© 2011 Cox Newspapers

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- Where a gun and police gear once dangled from former NYPD Detective John Pesce's belt, a utility bag filled with an emergen-

cy dose of epinephrine and an inhaler now hangs. Where Pesce's mornings once were filled tracking fugitives on New York City's mean streets, the now-retired 20-year veteran of that police force busily makes his rounds to therapists and doctors near his South Florida home. Since 9/11, Pesce's lungs

have never been the same, nor have his legs. And just last year, a stroke revealed damage that has rendered the 51-year-old's brain the MRI-equivalent of someone 20 years his senior. He's among the thousands



Pedestrians walk outside ground zero construction site in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011. Sept. 11, 2011 will mark the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States. Thousands who ran to the World Trade Center to save others now find himself in need of help, 10 years later.

(AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

cy dose of epinephrine and an inhaler now hangs. Where Pesce's mornings once were filled tracking fugitives on New York City's mean streets, the now-retired 20-year veteran of that police force busily makes his rounds to therapists and doctors near his South Florida home. Since 9/11, Pesce's lungs

who ran to the World Trade Center to save others, only to find himself in need of help now, 10 years later. "Sometimes they make you feel like a zero, instead of a hero," Pesce says of the career he subsequently lost, the battles he must fight with his health and the bureaucracy that keeps the bills paid.

In 2008, New York City health authorities told Congress they estimated about 91,000 rescue and recovery workers, and 300,000 building occupants, residents and passersby were probably exposed to the vaporized remains -- including pulverized concrete, asbestos, glass and lead -- from the two 110-story towers.

Of those, about 71,000 have voluntarily enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Registry -- including 1,537 Floridians.

Thousands blame the noxious cloud of dust that caked the area around the World Trade Center for a myriad of ills that range from a chronic cough to cancer. The science, however, is less certain. The list of illnesses that have been directly linked to exposure to the toxic cloud is short.

Topping the list are respiratory illnesses including sinus problems, asthma or lung issues.

Findings from the World Trade Center Health Registry indicate that new cases of asthma among responders were reported at 12 times the rate of the general population in the three years after the attacks. □

Mass. nursing care found lacking

KAY LAZAR

© 2011 The Boston Globe

Massachusetts ranks 30th of all states when it comes to overall affordability, quality, and availability of services for residents who need long-term care in a nursing facility or in their own home, according to a new national study.

The analysis ranked Massachusetts as one of the most expensive states in the country for the one in seven seniors who are paying for nursing home care out of their own pockets. Only Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Alaska were rated more expensive, according to the report from the AARP Public Policy Institute and two other foundations.

Deborah Banda, state director of the AARP Massachusetts, said the findings underscore the urgent need for state

leaders to address the soaring cost of long-term health care as they debate overhauling the way doctors and hospitals are paid. "This really screams that we need to have affordability as a part of the discussion about payment reform," Banda said.

The study also found that programs and services for families who care for loved ones at home are significantly lacking. Despite a push by the Patrick administration to bolster home- and community-based care, the report gave Massachusetts low marks, ranking it 40th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, for the percentage of low-income residents who end up in nursing homes without first receiving community-based care that might have allowed them to stay at home.

"This report tells us that we

score very high on rhetoric but we are mediocre on performance," said Al Norman, executive director of Mass Home Care, a network of 30 nonprofit agencies that focus on caring for patients in their homes. "We tell the public that we want to take care of you at home," Norman said. "But we don't put our dollars where our rhetoric is." The report found that Massachusetts spends about 39 percent of its long-term care money on services that would allow elders and disabled residents to be cared for in their homes, while the highest-ranked states allocate about 60 percent of their funds on home- and community-based care.

Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, the state's secretary of Health and Human Services, said Massachusetts is committed to changing that equation. □



Stanford Hospital and Medical Center

Breach at Stanford Hospital exposed patients data

KEVIN SACK

© 2011 New York Times

A medical privacy breach at Stanford University's hospital in Palo Alto, Calif., led to the public posting of medical records for 20,000 emergency room patients, including names and diagnosis codes, on a commercial website for nearly a year, the hospital has confirmed.

Since discovering the breach last month, the hospital has been investigating how a detailed spreadsheet made its way from one of its vendors, a billing contractor identified as Multi-Specialty Collection Services, to a website called "Student of Fortune," which allows students to solicit paid assistance with their school work.

Gary Migdol, a spokesman for Stanford Hospital and Clinics, said the spreadsheet first appeared on the site Sept. 9, 2010, as an attachment to a question about how to convert the data into a bar graph.

Even as government regulators strengthen oversight by requiring public reporting of breaches and imposing heavy fines, experts on medical security said the Stanford incident spotlights the persistent vulnerability posed by legions of outside contractors who gain access to private data.

The spreadsheet contained names, diagnosis codes, account numbers, admission and discharge dates, and billing charges for patients seen at Stanford Hospital's emergency room during a six-month period in 2009, Migdol said. It did not include Social Security numbers, birthdates, credit-card accounts or other information used to perpetrate identity theft, he said, but the hospital is offering free identity protection services to affected patients.

The breach was discovered by a patient and reported to the hospital Aug. 22, according to a letter written four days later to affected patients by Diane Meyer, Stanford Hospital's chief privacy officer. The hospital took "aggressive steps," and the website removed the post the next day, Meyer wrote. It also notified state and federal agencies, Migdol said.

"It is clearly disturbing when this information gets public," he said. "It is our intent 100 percent of the time to keep this information confidential and private, and we work hard every day to ensure that."

Diane Dobson, of Santa Clara, Calif., said her "jaw dropped" Saturday when she intercepted the letter from Meyer addressed to her 21-year-old son, who she said received emergency psychiatric treatment at Stanford in 2009. Dobson said it could have been disastrous if her son, who lives at home, had learned that his name was linked online to a diagnosis for psychosis.

"My son, I can tell you, is fragile and confused enough that this would have sent him over the edge," Dobson said. "Everyone with an electronic medical record is at risk, and that means everyone."

The incident at Stanford, while egregious in its details, is far from rare. □

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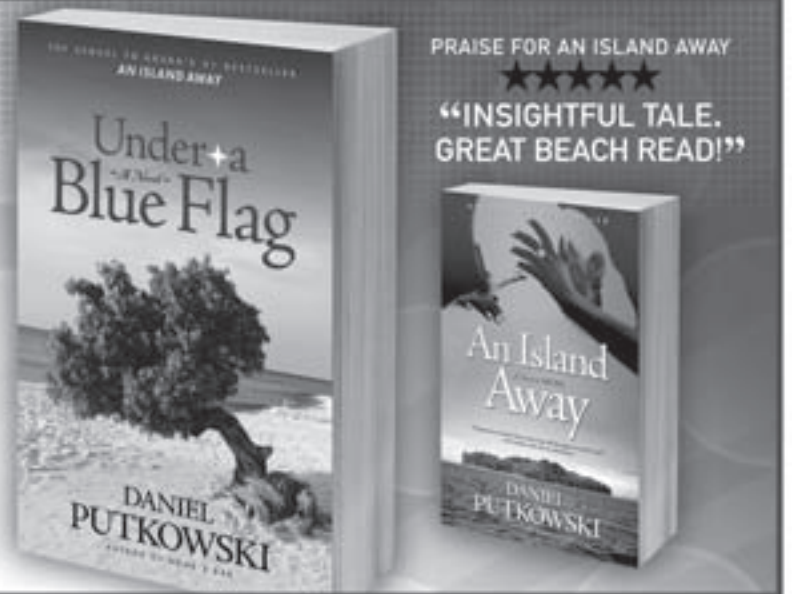


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Technology Briefs

Twitter expanding the number of ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — If you're on Twitter, expect to see more ads flowing through your stream of tweets in the next few months. The ads will show up even if the promotion is from a company that a person hasn't chosen to follow. Until now, Twitter had only displayed ads that users were tracking. As has been the case since Twitter began showing ads last year, the promotions must comply with the online messaging service's 140-character limit.

The ad expansion marks a major step in Twitter's attempt to make more money from its more than 100 million active users. Twitter says the audience is now sending about 230 million tweets a day.

Twitter CEO Dick Costolo told reporters that the 5-year-old company still hasn't set a timetable to go public. □

EW Scripps to stream live video

CINCINNATI (AP) — The E.W. Scripps Co. said Thursday that it will become the first TV station group in the nation to deliver live video programming to mobile devices.

The launch will occur in nine markets: Detroit, Phoenix, Tampa, Fla., Cleveland, Baltimore, Kansas City, Cincinnati, West Palm Beach, Fla., and Tulsa, Okla.

Users who download the mobile application for their local Scripps station will be prompted at certain times — such as during breaking news events or occurrences of severe weather — to view streaming content. Clicking on the prompt will open a media player that will show either a simulcast of the station's on-air content or special coverage tailored to small screens.

The technology is to be made available this month on iPhones, iPads, devices using the Android operating system and certain BlackBerry devices. The content will also be viewable over mobile Web browsers.

Shares of Scripps were down 35 cents, or 4.4 percent, at \$7.58 late Thursday, amid a broader market decline. □

Google buys restaurant review service Zagat

By RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

This "iconic" publisher of restaurant reviews is "trusted" and "well-loved" by foodies. Customers love its "ability to innovate" and gush over its "tremendous insight." Google said Thursday that it is buying Zagat, maker of the slender guidebooks that offer one-paragraph reviews and numerical ratings of eateries, peppered with partial quotes from the people who love and hate them.

Google plans to integrate Zagat's online reviews into its Google Maps service and its basic search results. Google said Zagat's style, drawing on snippet-sized customer reviews, was mobile before mobile was cool. "Zagat has established a trusted and well-loved brand the world over, operating in 13 categories and more than 100 cities," Google said. "The Zagats have demonstrated their ability to innovate and to do so with tremendous insight." The founders, husband and wife team Nina and Tim Zagat, said they will remain co-chairs of the

32-year-old company and will use Google's resources and expertise to expand.

In a blog post Thursday announcing the purchase, Marissa Mayer, Google's vice president of local,

cal merchants.

BGC Partners analyst Colin Gillis said the purchase was smart. He said Zagat is like the little brother of Yelp, the leading online review site and a pioneer in



FILE - In this Nov. 3, 2008 file photo, Tim Zagat, left, and his wife, Nina Zagat, ...

maps and location services, said Zagat "will be a cornerstone of our local offering."

Google and other companies are trying to improve their local offerings as a way to sell more ads to lo-

a space that was founded in 2004. Google had attempted to buy Yelp in 2009, at one point offering about \$500 million for the San Francisco-based company, according to numerous published reports. □

Activist buys up stake in Yahoo, slams board

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An activist investment fund disclosed Thursday that it has bought a 5.2 percent stake in troubled Web portal Yahoo Inc. and called for sweeping changes to the board.

A public letter from Daniel Loeb, chief executive of investment adviser Third Point, comes after Yahoo's board fired CEO Carol Bartz

on Tuesday after 2 1/2 years on the job, a move she bitterly criticized in an interview published Thursday. Loeb said the board made a "serious misjudgment" in hiring Bartz, and he criticized it for taking so long to fire her given her "abysmal performance."

He slammed Bartz personally for alienating the company's Asian partners — Al-

ibaba Group, Softbank and Yahoo Japan — as well as Yahoo's shareholders, analysts, bloggers, customers and employees.

"While the decision to hire her alone is grounds for questioning the board's competence, its willingness to turn a blind eye to these serious problems ... is even more troubling," Loeb said. □



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Stocks slide after Bernanke offers no new stimulus

DAVID K. RANDALL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks closed sharply lower Thursday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke offered no specific plans to prop up the economy.

In a speech closely watched by investors, Bernanke said the Fed will consider a range of steps at its Sept. 20-21 meeting. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 100 points shortly after Bernanke's remarks began at 1:30 p.m. Eastern (1630 GMT). It ended down 119.

"The implications are that the Fed is going to act, but the market is disappointed because he was a little short on details," said Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James. Concerns about the U.S. economy have pushed stocks lower each month since April. Many traders now say the stock market is pricing in the assumption that the economy is in a recession, meaning limited job growth and a weaker corporate profits. The economic worries have pushed the prices of Treasuries and



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke addresses the Economic Club of Minnesota Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011 in Minneapolis. Bernanke said he's surprised by how cautious consumers have been in the two years since the recession officially ended. But the Fed chief offered no hints of any steps the Fed would take to boost the weak economy.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

highly-rated corporate bonds higher and their yields lower. The yield on

the 10-year Treasury note was 1.99 percent Thursday, down from 3 percent July

25. Mortgage rates, which are affected by Treasury yields, fell to their lowest level in six decades, Freddie Mac reported Thursday.

President Obama will lay out his jobs plan at a joint session of Congress tonight. He is expected to announce a \$300 billion package that includes tax cuts, additional state aid and spending on infrastructure.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 119.05 points, or 1 percent, to 11,295.81. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 12.72, or 1.1 percent, to 1,185.90. The Nasdaq composite shed 19.80, or 0.8 percent, to 2,529.14. Each index had posted gains earlier in the day.

Cisco Systems Inc. led the 30 Dow stocks with a 2.6 percent gain after it was upgraded by analysts. JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp and Boeing Co. each fell 3 percent, pulling the average lower.

Investors received mixed economic data before the market opened. □

Treasury yields dip

DANIEL WAGNER

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Treasury yields fell Thursday after a dose of poor economic news and cautious comments by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. Bernanke said Thursday afternoon that he's surprised by the weakness of consumer spending since the recession ended. He said the Fed's policy-making group will consider measures to reinvigorate the economy later this month.

Bernanke offered no specifics on the committee's policy options or its intentions. His comments echoed a speech last month, in which he supported Congress' efforts to reduce budget deficits over the long run but cautioned against rapid cuts while the economy remains so weak. Many economists expect the Fed to agree on further action to drive down long-term interest rates when the committee meets Sept. 20-21. □

Oil around \$89 during mid-day trading

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil stayed around \$89 a barrel Thursday ahead of President Barack Obama's speech on jobs and the economy. Investors hope to get a clearer picture of where the economy is headed when Obama speaks about jobs creation before a joint session of Congress Thursday night.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said earlier in the day in Minneapolis said the Fed will consider various ways to stimulate the economy when it meets later this month, but he gave no specifics. Obama's speech is expected to include a \$300 billion plan to create jobs. He'll likely propose a series of initiatives, including extensions of the payroll tax cut and long-term unemployment benefits, tax incentives for companies

to expand their workforce and money for public works projects.

High U.S. unemployment and the debt crisis in Europe have kept oil between \$80 and \$90 per barrel for more than a month, as investors worried about diminished demand for oil and gas in the sluggish economy.

Benchmark crude fell 29 cents on Thursday to finish at \$89.05 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price many international varieties of oil, fell \$1.25 to end at \$114.55 in London. Oil rose this week, mostly on expectations that the hurricane season will continue to slow down oil production and refining, after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee hampered operations on the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. Now Tropical Storm Maria in the Atlantic is moving toward Florida, while Tropical Storm Nate churns in the

Gulf, near Mexico.

The government reported Thursday that U.S. oil supplies dropped by 4 million barrels last week, which was more than analysts expected. Imports were down by more than a million barrels per day, as Hurricane Irene interfered with shipping on the East Coast.

The Energy Information Administration said in a separate report that natural gas supplies grew more than expected last week.

Meanwhile, gasoline pump prices held steady at a national average of \$3.655 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular is nearly 98 cents higher than a year ago.

In other energy trading, heating oil fell 3.13 cents to end at \$3.0443 per gallon and gasoline futures gave up 2.28 cents to finish at \$2.8852 per gallon. □

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This Sept. 6, 2011 photo, shows a Smithfield ham at a grocery store in Richardson, Texas. Smithfield Foods Inc.'s fiscal first-quarter net income rose 8 percent, as the world's biggest hog producer charged higher prices and sold more packaged meats. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

Higher prices raise up Smithfield Foods 1Q profit

C. LEONARD
M. CHAPMAN
AP Business Writers

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Raising prices and selling more packaged meats pushed up Smithfield Foods Inc.'s fiscal first-quarter net income by 8 percent, but the world's biggest hog producer cautioned Thursday that high feed costs will remain a problem this year. The company, whose 12 brands include Armour, Farmland and Smithfield, reported slightly higher adjusted net income than Wall Street analysts expected and revenue just short of forecasts. Shares of the Smithfield, Virginia, company dropped \$1.85, or 8.4 percent, to close at \$20.27 Thursday. Smithfield said its fiscal 2012 overall should be "another very good year." The company said it expects to sell 3 percent more packaged meat than during last fiscal year and to maintain

its level of profitability, but it didn't offer details. KeyBanc Capital Markets analyst Akshay Jagdale said in an email to The Associated Press that investors expected a brighter outlook, and they thought Smithfield's first-quarter results would beat expectations more soundly. "On both accounts, the company somewhat disappointed," Jagdale wrote. "It did not beat by much and (the) outlook seems slightly incrementally negative." Smithfield earned \$82.1 million, or 49 cents per share, for the three months that ended July 31. That's up from \$76.3 million, or 46 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding legal costs and other one-time items, Smithfield earned 69 cents per share. Analysts on average expected adjusted earnings of 68 cents per share, according to data from FactSet. □

Japan economy shrank more than initial report



Pedestrians are reflected on an electronic stock indicator in Tokyo, Japan. Japan's economy contracted the April-June quarter at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, worse than the initial estimate, the government said Friday, underlining the damage from the March earthquake disaster.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's economy contracted the April-June quarter at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, worse than the initial estimate, the government said Friday, underlining the damage from the March earthquake disaster. The Cabinet Office numbers give a more dismal view than the earlier report that had said Japan's gross domestic product, or the measure of a nation's goods and services, contracted at an annual rate of 1.3 percent. The world's third-largest economy has struggled ever since the March 11 tsunami and earthquake,

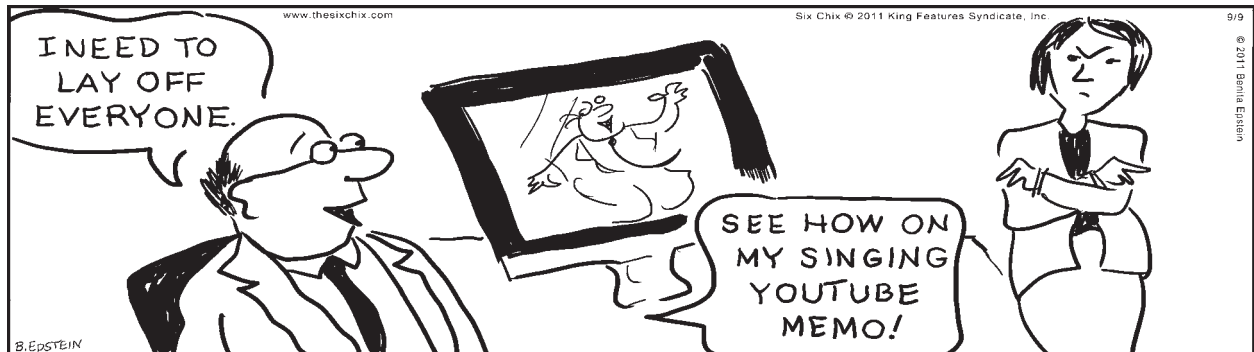
which left 20,000 people missing or dead, disrupted supply chains among the small-business suppliers in the northeast and forced companies to cut back on power usage because of a nuclear power plant that went into meltdown. The government said capital expenditure during the three months through June contracted 0.9 percent annual rate. The preliminary report had said it had risen 0.2 percent. Satoshi Osanai, economist at Daiwa Institute of Research in Tokyo, said the revisions were within expectations, and the consensus view among analysts is that the economy will bounce

back in months ahead. "These negative results reflect the one-time disaster, and so we still think conditions are turning better in a recovery," he said. "This is not going to be like Lehman shock when things kept getting worse." Government stimulus spending, designed to help along recovery efforts in northeastern Japan, is likely to combine with growth in the private sector, including consumer spending, to show expansion in the next quarter economic data, Osanai said. The disaster hit at a time when Japan's economy had been stagnating for more than a decade, its public debt ballooning, and the nation had been struggling to find a turnaround. Exports, corporate investment and consumer spending have all been falling in recent months. Even as companies restore production, a surging yen, which has recently tested record highs against the dollar, is a major problem for Japan's exporters. It reduces the value of their foreign earnings and makes Japanese goods more expensive in overseas markets. Japan lost its place as the world's No. 2 economy to China last year. It has faced a slew of problems including years of deflation and a rapidly aging and shrinking population. □

Mutts



6 Chix



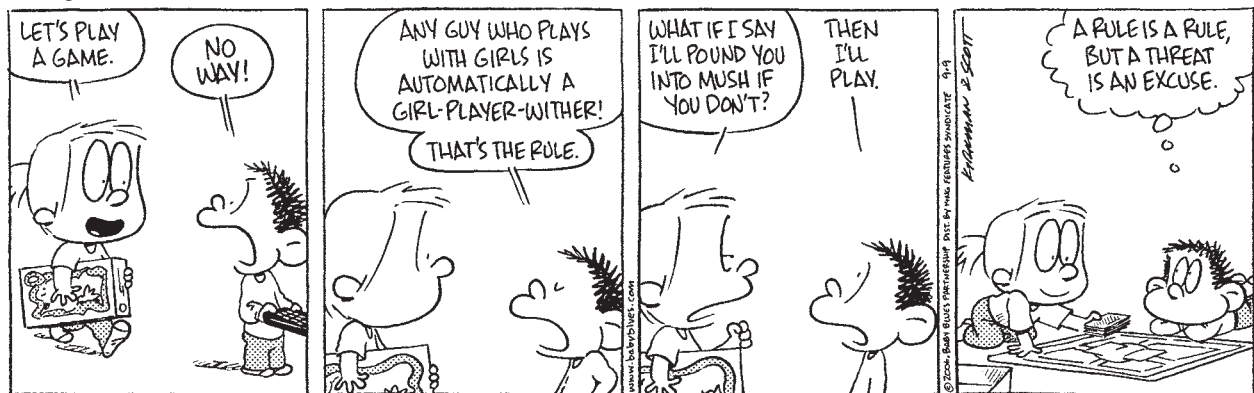
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6					2	
5			6		9		8
		4			1		
	7		4		3		6
				1			
	3		9		2		5
		2				5	
1			8		5		2
	9					4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/09

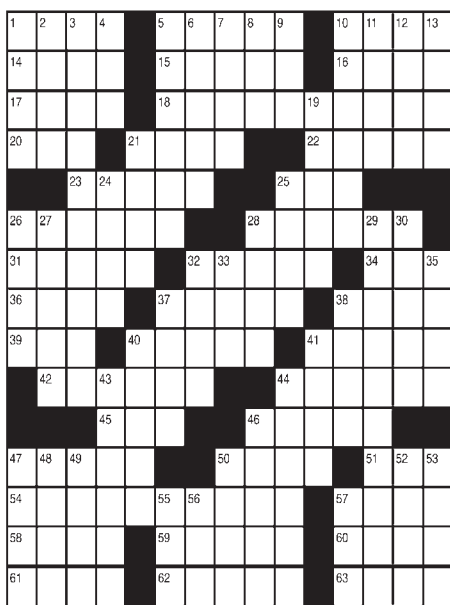
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	5	1	3	4	2	8	7	9
7	4	9	1	8	6	5	3	2
3	8	2	5	9	7	6	1	4
2	1	5	9	7	8	3	4	6
9	6	7	4	1	3	2	5	8
4	3	8	6	2	5	7	9	1
1	7	6	8	3	9	4	2	5
8	9	3	2	5	4	1	6	7
5	2	4	7	6	1	9	8	3

ACROSS

- Mr. Disney
- Under
- Wooden float
- Once more
- Cognizant
- Singer Guthrie
- Vanished — thin air
- Redundancy
- Plump, and then some
- Goofs up
- Raised strip
- Roof edges
- Was victorious
- Flower bed
- Actress Rogers
- Detest
- Tattles
- Evergreen with red berries
- Foot digits
- Carried
- Former Attorney General Janet
- Zsa Zsa's sister
- Segment
- Beer
- Brother of JFK
- Didn't succeed
- Rush
- Money, slangily
- TV's "Perry —"
- Hanks & Cruise
- Jacuzzi
- Air around the Earth
- Druggie
- Perched upon
- Burr or Spelling
- Veal or venison
- Three biblical kings
- Period of time spent at a job
- Inquires



9/9/11

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	D	A	L	H	O	M	E	N	A	S	T
A	G	I	L	E	O	W	E	S	A	F	E	W
P	O	E	T	S	P	E	L	T	P	O	N	E
A	S	S	E	S	S	E	D	A	R	O	U	S
					R	O	A	D				
D	O	E	S	N	T		S	C	E	N	E	
A	P	E		S	A	B	E	R		T	O	M
L	U	G	S		N	A	D	I	R		N	O
I	S	S	U	E		R	A	P	I	D		A
					N	Y	L	O	N		D	I
H	A	S	B	E	E	N		E	G	G	S	
A	R	M	A	D	A		O	V	E	R	P	A
B	E	A	T		N	A	V	E		E	R	N
I	N	C	H		E	W	E	R		S	I	N
T	A	K	E		R	E	N	T		S	T	A

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DOWN

- Homeless child
- Actress Paquin
- Feature at the top of business stationery
- Duo
- Like desolate, fruitless land
- Asian nation
- Ms. Goldberg
- Rouse; incite
- Ignoramus
- "Yes, —"; polite response
- "— boy!"; encouraging comment
- Air pollution
- Hatcher or Garr
- 52 Mountaintop
- 53 — and crafts
- 55 Faux —; gaffe
- 56 Sombrero, e.g.
- 57 Ms. Thurman

Today In History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, September 9, the 252nd day of 2011. There are 113 days left in the year. Highlights in history on this date:

1509 - Turks take Nicosia on Cyprus.

1513 - Scotland's King James IV is killed in Battle of Flooden with British.

1585 - Pope Sixtus V excommunicates Henry of Navarre of France.

1776 - Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia changes the name "United Colonies" to "United States."

1835 - "September Laws" in France severely censor press and suppress radical movement.

1888 - Chile annexes Easter Island in South Pacific.

1893 - Frances Cleveland, wife of U.S. President Grover Cleveland, gives birth to daughter, Esther, in the White House. It is the first time a president's child is born in the executive mansion.

1894 - Sun Yat-sen heads his first attempt at revolution in China. The revolt does not succeed until 1911.

1921 - Constitution of Central American Union is signed by republics of Guatemala, Honduras and San Salvador.

1943 - A day after the Italians surrender, Allied troops land at Salerno, south of Naples, but face stiff resistance from a German Panzer division, which consists of armored vehicles.

1944 - While the Soviet army advances in Bulgaria, the government is overthrown in a Communist-led coup.

1948 - Korean People's Democratic Republic is formed in North Korea, claiming authority over entire country.

1951 - Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru becomes president of the governing Congress Party, succeeding Purchottamdas Tandon who resigned in a policy dispute.

1957 - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs into law the first civil rights bill to pass



Today is Michelle Williams' birthday

the U.S. Congress since the Civil War.

1971 - Prisoners seize control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, beginning a siege that claims 43 lives.

1974 - U.S. President Gerald Ford is criticized heavily in Congress over his pardoning of former President Richard Nixon.

1986 - Gunmen kidnap American director of Lebanese school as he drives from his home in Muslim west Beirut.

1987 - Iraq launches series of coordinated air raids on Iranian power plants, factories and oil centers.

1988 - Burma's former Prime Minister U Nu, toppled in a 1962 military coup, announces formation of a rival government. Burma is now known as Myanmar.

1991 - Saudi Arabia releases 400 Iraqi citizens held in the kingdom in exchange for a Saudi prisoner of war and a Saudi woman held in Iraq.

1992 - In a bid to defuse tensions with U.N. forces, the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's radical communist movement that ruled the country from 1975 to 1979, invites the peacekeeping chief to its secluded base.

1994 - The United States

agrees to accept at least 20,000 Cuban immigrants a year in return for Cuba's promise to halt people from boarding rafts and trying to sail to America.

1995 - NATO warplanes return to the skies over Bosnia to attack repaired Serb air defenses, and acknowledge that the attacks probably killed some civilians.

1996 - Typhoon Sally hits coastal areas of Guangdong, China's most developed province, killing more than 130 people and injuring thousands.

1997 - Sinn Fein, political ally of the Irish Republican Army, formally renounces violence and enters talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

1998 - Independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr submits to the U.S. Congress a report on possible impeachable offenses by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

1999 - Israel begins releasing Palestinian prisoners as part of new peace deal.

Today's Birthdays:

Cardinal Richelieu, French churchman-statesman (1585-1642); Cornelius van Tromp, Dutch admiral (1629-1691); Luigi Galvani, Italian physiologist (1737-1798); Max Reinhardt, Austrian stage/screen director (1873-1943); Otis Redding, U.S. soul singer/songwriter (1941-1967); Hugh Grant, British actor (1960--); Adam Sandler, U.S. actor (1966--); Michelle Williams, U.S. actress (1980--).

Thought for Today:

Think wrongly if you please, but in all cases, think for yourself — Gotthold Lessing, German dramatist-critic (1729-1781). □

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Dr. Mungra
San Nicolas
Dr. Luchmun

Pharmacy on duty
ORANJESTAD:
Dakota Tel: 588-7364

SAN NICOLAAS:
San Lucas Tel: 584-4830

Police

Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers

Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

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Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Profesional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
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Suriname Airways	Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air	Tel: 588-4272
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Foundation Fellowship Clinic
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Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989
Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

[illegible]



Actor Matt Damon and wife Luciana Barroso attend the premiere of 'Contagion' at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York. (AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

Box Office Preview:

'Contagion' gets shot at No. 1

P. DERGARABEDIAN

For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The fall movie season breaks out this weekend with Steven Soderbergh's all-star "Contagion" from Warner Bros. inoculating the domestic movie marketplace with a gross of around \$25 million and firing "The Help" from its three-week stint at No. 1. Starring Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and more, "Contagion's" A-list cast, scientific realism and IMAX screens offer an infectious mix for sophisticated audiences looking for a taut, brainy thriller about pandemic pandemonium.

Disney's "The Help" enters its fifth weekend with nearly \$130 million in hard-earned cash, and with another small weekend drop expected, the film should tidy things up in the low teens.

The likely third-place contender with an expected gross of close to \$10 million is Lionsgate's "Warrior," starring Tom Hardy and Joel Edgerton as brothers who wind up competing in a high-stakes mixed martial arts tournament. Nick Nolte, in an Oscar-worthy performance, plays their estranged, recovered-alcoholic father who is suddenly thrust into the role of trainer for one of them. A stronger-than-expected Labor Day weekend debut and solid mid-week grosses by "The Debt" from Focus Features should land the espionage thriller starring Helen Mirren in fourth place with around \$7 million.

The Weinstein Co.'s space-age thriller "Apollo 18" could splash down this weekend in fifth place with around \$6 million after a third-place debut over the Labor Day holiday.

But Fox's relentless "Rise of The Planet of the Apes" could also lunge at the top 5 on its sixth weekend out as it approaches the \$170 million mark in North America. □

Fassbender sizzles in 'Jane Eyre'

DANA PALAMARA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — At the moment, there's just no stopping Michael Fassbender. The "X-Men: First Class" and "Inglourious Basterds" star has just stepped off the plane from the Venice Film Festival, where he's promoting two films, not one. Those would be "Shame," director Steve McQueen's hugely anticipated follow to "Hunger" — another virtuoso Fassbender project — and Steven Soderbergh's "A Dangerous Method," in which Fassbender stars as Carl Jung alongside Viggo Mortensen and Keira Knightley.

Oh, and he's had a busy summer in the Scottish highlands filming Ridley Scott's science fiction epic "Prometheus."

Now the German-born Irish actor is back in London for his latest film "Jane Eyre," where his brooding and doleful Mr. Rochester runs smack into Mia Wasikowska's timid but fiercely feminist Jane.

"I started reading, I was like 'God for me he comes across as very bipolar,'" Fassbender told The Associated Press.

"He can be so distant, and sort of closed off and isolated really, even in a room full of people, and then he

could be so connected and so sort of emotionally excitable, I thought that was something that could be played with."

Set in Yorkshire, England, in the early 19th century, Charlotte Bronte's classic

American director Cary Fukunaga's latest version may challenge that status. Fukunaga's film opened in the U.S. in March to widespread critical acclaim and is now enjoying another round of positive reviews from British



From left, German actor Michael Fassbender, Canadian actress Sarah Gadon, Canadian director David Cronenberg, British actress Keira Knightley, French actor Vincent Cassel and Danish actor Viggo Mortensen arrive for the premiere of a "Dangerous Method" at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

(AP Photo/Jonathan Short)

tale of the young governess who falls hopelessly in love with her employer has been told countless times. In addition to scores of TV, radio and stage adaptations, there have been least 17 movies, with the first full-length feature film dating back to 1914.

Until now, the most famous "Jane Eyre" was the 1943 film starring Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine, but

critics.

Fassbender gives the credit to Fukunaga, whose last film "Sin Nombre" about Central American immigrants trying to reach the U.S. won the 2009 directing and cinematography awards at the Sundance Film Festival. "Cary is someone that is really talented in terms of telling a story visually first and foremost," he said. "His framing is exceptional." □

Galliano is convicted in anti-Semitism case

JENNY BARCHFIELD

AP Writer

PARIS (AP) — John Galliano's drunken anti-Semitic ravings cost him his job at Paris luxury house Christian Dior and gave him a criminal record but didn't land him in jail, a Paris court ruled Thursday. The court found Galliano guilty on two counts of "public insults based on origin, religious affiliation, race or ethnicity" — charges that carry a maximum sentence of six months in prison and fines of up to euro20,000. But the three-magistrate panel showed leniency, sentencing the legendary designer to a euro6,000 (\$8,400) suspended fine, which means it goes on Galliano's criminal record but he does not have to pay it. The court



A Paris court convicted former Christian Dior designer John Galliano on Thursday for making anti-Semitic insults in a bar but gave him only a suspended sentence, taking into account his apology to the victims.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus, File)

did not give Galliano prison time.

Presiding judge Anne-Marie Sauteraud said the magistrates' clemency was in part due to the fact that

the designer had apologized to the court and the plaintiffs — who contended the designer showered them with a litany of racist and anti-Semitic insults in two separate run-ins at a Paris watering hole.

In testimony before the court in proceedings in June, Galliano said he didn't recall anything about the spats and explained he had been under the influence of a "triple addiction" to alcohol, barbiturates and sleeping pills. Still, he added he was sorry for "the sadness that this whole affair has caused."

Lawyers for both sides welcomed Thursday's ruling. "It is a wise ruling," Galliano lawyer Aurelien Hamelle told journalists outside the courtroom. □

Are the 'Replikates' ready to march?



The spring 2012 collection of Tadashi Shoji is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

in a Kate moment," said Ed Burstell, the managing director for Liberty of London. Burstell, who expects to see a pronounced "Kate effect" in New York this week, added that since her recent tours abroad, "everyone wants to look like her, to act like her, to be her." Or maybe just to dress her. Less impressed by her wardrobe than by her infectious mix of ebullience and propriety, Seventh Avenue designers as diverse as Vera Wang, Tory Burch, Peter Som and Tommy Hilfiger have acknowledged her widening influence. "We are definitely returning to a time when we want things that are more timeless and polished, not looking a mess," said Rachel Zoe, the Hollywood stylist turned fashion designer, whose fame once rested on her luxuriously disheveled approach to dress. The duchess represents a return to classicism, said Zoe, who will offer "Savile Row-style" tailoring and herringbone tweeds in her show next week, in a nod, however oblique, to American notions of British taste and refinement. Jason Wu's current concept of chic will entail "an old-school silhouette," he said, shapely and controlled but voluminous at times, reminiscent of a princess in a fairy tale. □

RUTH LA FERLA

© 2011 New York Times

As he lounged near a pool in Southampton, N.Y., last month, Wes Gordon had an epiphany. A group of young women gathered nearby were poring over an issue of People, its pages teeming with images of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge. Sheathed in trim-fitting dresses, her slender arms covered almost to the wrist, the duchess impressed them as a model of regal aplomb. They could not seem to get enough of her, Gordon recalled. Not her slim dresses, nor her pumps, her J Brand jeans or see-through hose. But mostly they chattered about her sleeves. Those long sleeves were a touch, said the designer (who will show his spring line at Lincoln Center on Thursday) "that six months ago not one of those girls would have commented on." Catherine's style — streamlined and seemingly almost to a fault — resonates as well with scores of young women who aspire to a classically patrician look but who have, until recently, had few credible role models. To court them, Gordon said, designers must ask themselves, "How do I make elegance relevant to someone who's young?" "To some degree," he said, "Kate supplies the answer." Indeed, Kate's influence will be felt on the runways Thursday when New York Fashion Week begins, if not in any literal sense, then surely as a state of mind. "We are



Fashion from the Spring 2012 collection of Richard Chai is modeled on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011 in New York. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

NY Fashion Week holds a new twist for buyers

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Fashion Week launched Thursday with spring previews, but consumers don't necessarily have to wait that long to place their orders — and that has potential to upend the traditional fashion calendar.

Typically designers show their shorts and bikinis in September, preparing for spring delivery to stores.

online but they still couldn't secure those styles.

They had to wait for their local stores or online retailer to decide to order that style — and hopefully in your size.

There's a disconnect there," she said.

Next up for fashion insiders in the coming weeks are runway shows in London, Milan and Paris.

BCBGMAZARIA

With all the news buzz-



The spring 2012 collection of BCBGMAXAZRIA is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The turtlenecks and coats are unveiled in February for the fall. But this year, the website Moda Operandi is collaborating with Vogue to feed a more immediate click-and-shop mindset for shoppers.

"You're going to be able to order styles within days of the runway show," said Aslaug Magnusdottir, CEO and co-founder of Moda Operandi. "Fashion Week has always been a press-focused event with a lot of buzz. Then customers were able to see every single style

ing at the Lincoln Center tents — John Galliano's guilty verdict and President Obama's speech on the economy — Max and Lubov Azria took a soothing approach to lift the mood, at least for a moment.

Dresses continue as their strong suit: A-line sundresses with fanlike pleats, barely there slip dresses and flowing scarf styles.

While delicacy and modesty prevailed, there were hints of bolder sexiness with a bra-top style here and a low, open back there. □

Finding hope in Libya



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
© 2011 New York Times

When I was entering Libya last week from Tunisia, a rebel soldier named Ayman objected that I didn't have a visa.

I pointed out that his force had overthrown the government that issued visas. But, in this kind of a stalemate, the guy with the gun wins. And that was Ayman.

Eventually, he came up with a solution. I would give him a ride to his hometown, Zawarah, and the visa requirement would disappear.

I gritted my teeth and told him to jump in.

That incident points to a fear that many Americans have of the Libyan rebels. Are they just goons who will create their own tyranny or chaos?

Particularly after we embraced Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan, only to see him engulfed by corruption, it's fair to ask whether the Libyan rebels will do any better. The uncertainties are real. But, after my recent visit to Libya, I'm guardedly optimistic.

What's particularly impressive is the paucity of revenge killings and looting in Tripoli, the capital. There have been a few incidents in which rebel soldiers apparently executed prisoners, and black Africans have been treated abysmally (they are accused of being mercenaries for Moammar Gadhafi). But the Libyans who served in that hated regime mostly have not been molested.

I saw many Libyans fleeing for Tunisia, and, presumably, many of them were Gadhafi loyalists. But rebels did not hinder them at checkpoints or pilfer their belongings. And, as far as I could tell, the homes and luxury vehicles the loyalists left behind have been mostly untouched by neighbors and rebels alike.

In addition, I went through dozens of armed rebel checkpoints and was never once asked for a "bak-

sheesh," meaning bribe or gift.

What we know of the top rebel leadership is also reasonably encouraging. Mahmoud Jibril, the acting prime minister of the rebels' National Transitional Council, earned his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh and taught there, too. As for Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, the acting chairman of the council, he is a former justice minister who challenged Gadhafi by calling for the release of political prisoners. Ali Tarhouni, the finance minister, is a former economist at the University of Washington.

Some Americans have fretted that Islamic extremists will take over Libya, but very few of the rebel leaders have been associated with Islamic fundamentalism. One exception is Abdel Hakim Belhaj, a military commander in Tripoli, who says he was tortured by the CIA in 2004.

Yet he told my Times colleague Rod Nordland that all is forgiven and that he appreciates the American role in the Libyan revolution.

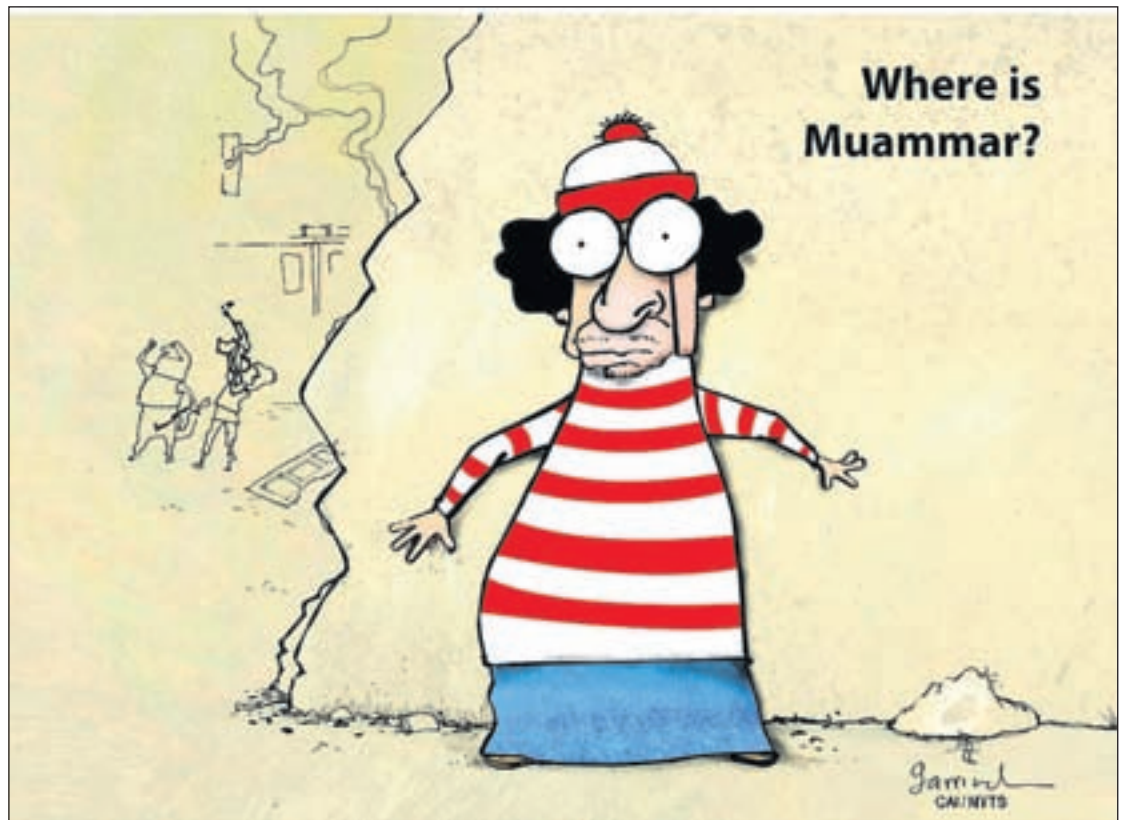
Frankly, any representative Libyan government needs to include fundamentalists like Belhaj, who were particularly brave in standing up to the Gadhafi regime. The mood in Libya is both pro-Islam and pro-Western.

Occasionally, I ran into Libyan-Americans who traveled to Libya to join the revolution; I called one rebel outside my hotel "Texas," because that's where he learned his drawl.

Then there's Dr. Rida Mazagri, a neurosurgeon from West Virginia who returned to his native Libya to care for patients in rebel-held areas. Mazagri was seized by Gadhafi forces, and nothing was heard of him for five months. Many of us assumed that he was dead, but then rebels freed him from a prison in Tripoli and he has just returned to a hero's welcome in West Virginia.

The mood in Tripoli seems largely tolerant and forgiving, and exuberant about the prospect of democracy. "We are free now," an engineer named Belgassim Ali told me. "Make a newspaper to support Gadhafi; I don't mind. But no dictatorship!"

It's true that the rebels are atomized in small armed groups, and some roll their eyes at the rebel council. Most have little experience in governing, and they squabble among themselves. □



Debating with the stars



GAIL COLLINS
© 2011 New York Times

Except in those parts of the country where it was dry and fire-prone. But what did America care about the weather when it had the chance to forget about its troubles on Wednesday night and curl up with eight candidates for the Republican presidential nomination?

The voters have a lot to figure out. What would it be like to have a president who continually tells the country he's going to get the working class workin'? And is there something going on with Mitt Romney's hair? The dark part is looking darker and those little white tufts around the ears are getting whiter. It makes his forehead look as if it's levitating.

The Republican nominating campaign has thus far been one long primal scream from party members desperate to avoid making Romney their nominee. Really, they will look at anybody. Remember the Donald Trump moment? Michele Bachmann, Front-

Runner? Who knows where their glazed eyes will turn next? Rudy Giuliani is now running around saying that he might get in the race "if I think we are truly desperate." Which they would really, really, really have to be. The current front-running Mitt Alternative is Rick Perry, possibly the first major presidential candidate opposed to the direct election of U.S. senators since the advent of the Bull Moose Party. He did not do anything super-weird at his maiden presidential debate, unless you count bouncing up and down and cocking his head a lot. Or claiming that the reason a quarter of the Texas population has no health insurance is because of government interference.

And Romney cleaned Perry's clock on Social Security. Young Americans, if you dream of someday running for president, try not to write any books calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme.

"We're not trying to pick fights here," protested Perry, inaccurately. Attempting to change the subject, the Texas governor suggested: "Maybe it's time to have some provocative language in this country and say things like: 'Let's get America working again and do whatever it takes to make that happen.'" If you dare, candidates. Perry and Romney had an interesting dust-up over who did the better job of creating employment. This is a fight that is going to go on for the next several months. Statistics will be cited, and by the time it is over you will come to understand why

young people don't dream of running away from home to become an economist.

"Michael Dukakis created jobs three times faster than you did, Mitt," Perry said at one point.

"George Bush and his predecessors created jobs at a faster rate than you did," retorted Romney. Score. Republicans, do you want to trust your nomination to a guy who makes Mitt Romney look clever? Just think about it. I was sorry that no one asked Perry more of the really critical questions. For instance, is it true that he saved his daughter's puppy from being eaten by a coyote? This allegedly happened when Perry went jogging "packing a Ruger .380 with laser sights and loaded with hollow-point bullets." Because, as he says, he is "that kind of guy." His puppy-rescue is a stirring picture, especially considering that Perry's chief competitor is the man who drove to Canada with the family dog Seamus strapped to the roof of the car. But the more I think about it, the more I wonder. Where were his bodyguards? How did the puppy keep up with him if he was running? And where exactly was he carrying the Ruger? Many joggers I know have trouble hanging on to a water bottle. Perry and Romney were not the only debaters. There was Jon (I Believe in Evolution) Huntsman Jr., hoping to be next in the Not-Mitt Sweepstakes. Rick Santorum, Bachmann and Ron Paul ganged up on Perry for trying to get Texas girls inoculated against cervical cancer. □

Year 3:

Global shopping party at Fashion's Night Out



People are seen in the Montaigne avenue in Paris as fashionistas turned out en masse for the City of Light's edition of Fashion's Night Out, Paris, Thursday Sept. 8, 2011.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

JENNY BARCHFIELD

AP Writer

PARIS (AP) — Fashion's Night Out, the worldwide nocturnal shopping extravaganza that's the brainchild of Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour, entered its third year Thursday, kicking off in Paris with a Champagne-soaked frenzy up and down the Avenue Montaigne luxury row.

Among the Paris revelers was 35-year-old Sandra Pauwels, who called FNO "an event I just couldn't miss."

"With the Champagne and the music, it's like a party

in here," she said while sipping a cocktail at Ungaro.

Fashion's Night Out started in 2009 in New York as a celebrity-studded way to lure shoppers into stores during the recession, but it's turned into a global shopping party.

Retailers around the world — from upscale boutiques to suburban malls to online retailers — are embracing the event, which coincides with the start of New York Fashion Week and the important fall fashion season. Mass appeal highlights in New York include Dolce & Gabbana hosting an ap-

pearance by Justin Bieber and Michael Kors mixing it up with the Rockettes at Rockefeller Center.

Milan, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, Mexico City and even Adelaide, Australia, were among the cities participating worldwide.

Sporty American designer Tommy Hilfiger, who's slated to appear at Macy's Manhattan flagship with jazzy singer Joss Stone, hailed Fashion's Night Out as "a big celebration."

"Anna Wintour came up with such a genius idea, and it actually worked," Hilfiger told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "I think it's not just about the shopping that night, I think it's the idea of getting

McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse, which tracks cash as well as credit transactions.

He estimated that sales nationwide at department stores and clothing chains were up 2 percent on Fashion's Night Out last year, compared with the 2009 period that was limited to events in New York. Shoes and teen clothing fared the best, he added.

In Paris, teenage girls mingled inside boutiques with grand dames in Chanel jackets and pearls. The crowds were so thick they spilled off sidewalks and into the streets, much to the annoyance of taxis snared



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(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)



Fashion's Night Out started in 2009 in New York as a celebrity-studded way to lure shoppers into stores during the recession, but it's turned into a global shopping party.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

out there — exposing the fact that fashion can be fun. ... It doesn't have to be this serious thing that's too expensive.

Fashion and shopping doesn't have to be anything but fun."

Getting face-time with his customers is another of the event's positive side, said Hilfiger: "To see them and hear directly from them is pretty cool."

Last year's extended hours and blitz of promotions and entertainment provided a measurable sales lift for merchants, said Michael

in the surge. More than 50 stores in Paris' so-called "Golden Triangle" luxury shopping district took part in this year's event, including Chanel, Dior, Prada, Armani and Ralph Lauren. □

